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# After surprise Trump-Kim meet, US, North Korea to reopen talks

## US president steps into DPRK in historic first



Marzouq Al-Ghanem

## Assembly position on Palestine reflects Amir's: Speaker

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti parliament's principled and unwavering position on the Palestinian cause is part of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's stance, top legislator said yesterday. Speaking to reporters at the parliament, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said this parliament's stance is basically based on HH the Amir's long-standing and unshakable approach.

Speaking highly of HH the Amir's interest in Islamic and Arab issues, Ghanem appreciated the Palestinian people for organizing rallies recently in the West Bank in order to show gratitude to Kuwait for its attitude towards the Palestine cause. "I confirm to the Palestinian people in occupied territories and all Arab and Islamic countries that the position of the Kuwaiti people, represented by the parliament, on all Islamic causes, primarily the Palestinian one, is unwavering," he said.

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Sheikh Fahd Nasser Sabah Al-Sabah

## Kuwait's Olympic committee elects new chief, board

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti sports entered a new era late yesterday after the Kuwait Olympic Committee's general assembly elected its new board, culminating a "roadmap" that was designated to resolve Kuwait's sporting crisis. The assembly elected Sheikh Fahd Nasser Al-Sabah as Chairman; Mohammad Jaafar as Vice-Chairman; Hussein Al-Musallam as General Secretary; and Mubarak Faisal Al-Nawaf, Jaber Thamer Al-Ahmad, Ali Al-Merri, Nael Al-Awadhi, Musaed Al-Ajeel, and Saud Al-Harbi as members. They were unanimously elected as all 16 sports associations voted for the list of Sheikh Fahd.

Sheikh Fahd said Kuwaiti sport needs collective work without special considerations. He said the board seeks cooperation with PAS to establish Olympic academies in all the state's governorates, including one for treating athletes.

The International Olympic Committee is expected to issue a decision very soon to permanently lift its ban on Kuwait. A representative of the IOC attended the KOC general assembly meeting, in addition to the six-member committee that worked on resolving the sports crisis in Kuwait.

PANMUNJOM/SEOUL: US President Donald Trump became the first sitting US president to set foot in North Korea yesterday when he met its leader, Kim Jong Un, in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks. The meeting, initiated by a spur-of-the-moment tweet by Trump that Kim said took him by surprise, once again displayed the rapport between the two. But they are no closer to narrowing the gap between their positions since they walked away from their summit in February in Vietnam.

The two men shook hands warmly and expressed hopes for peace when they met for the third time in just over a year on the old Cold War frontier that for decades has symbolized the hostility between their countries, which are technically still at war. Trump, escorted by Kim, briefly crossed a military demarcation line into the North side of the Joint

Security Area (JSA), patrolled by soldiers from both Koreas.

Moments later, they returned to the southern side and joined South Korea's President Moon Jae-in for a brief chat, marking an unprecedented three-way gathering. Trump and Kim then held a closed-door meeting for nearly an hour. "We just had a very, very good meeting," Trump said after the talks. "We'll see what can happen." He said both sides would set up teams to push forward stalled talks aimed at getting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, adding "speed is not the thing". Trump also said he had invited the young leader to the White House "anytime he wants to do it".

Pope Francis, making his weekly address in St Peter's Square, praised the meeting. "I salute the protagonists, with a prayer that such a significant gesture will be a further step on the road to peace, not only on that peninsula,

Continued on Page 24



PANMUNJOM: North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shakes hands with US President Donald Trump north of the Military Demarcation Line that divides North and South Korea in the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) yesterday. — AFP

## Mass protests for civilian rule rock Sudan

KHARTOUM: Tens of thousands of protesters rallied across Sudan yesterday against the ruling generals as demonstrators marched on the presidential palace in Khartoum, in the biggest mass demonstration since a deadly crackdown on demonstrators. The "million-man" march is seen as a test for protest organizers whose push for civilian rule has been hit by the June 3 raid on a Khartoum sit-in and a subsequent internet blackout that has curbed their ability to mobilize support.

Dozens of demonstrators were killed and hundreds wounded when armed men in military fatigues stormed the sit-in outside army headquarters, shooting and beating protesters who had camped there since April 6. Yesterday, police fired several rounds of tear gas on crowds approaching the presidential palace after organizers called for a march on the building that houses offices of the ruling transitional military council, an AFP correspondent reported.

"We call on our revolutionary people in the capital to go to the republican palace... to seek justice for the martyrs and for an unconditional transfer of power to civilians," the Sudanese Professionals Association that first launched protests against now ousted ruler Omar Al-Bashir said on Twitter.

Continued on Page 24



KHARTOUM: Sudanese protesters chant "civilian rule" during a mass demonstration against Sudan's ruling generals in the capital's Bari district yesterday. — AFP

## US envoys on hand as Israel digs down in east Jerusalem

JERUSALEM: US envoys attended the inauguration of a Jewish heritage site in East Jerusalem yesterday, signaling support for Israel's hold over parts of the city that Palestinians want for a future state. Palestinians - who view the heritage project and settlement activities in the Silwan district as moves by Israel to further cement control over areas it captured in the 1967 Middle East war - called the US presence at the event a hostile act.

Two of Trump's top Middle East advisers - peace envoy Jason Greenblatt and Ambassador to Israel David Friedman - came to the opening of an excavated road that Israeli archaeologists say was used by Jewish pilgrims to Jerusalem two millennia ago. The "Pilgrims' Road" site is part of the City of David, an open-air Jewish archaeological attraction open to the public and



JERUSALEM: (From left) US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, White House Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt and US Senator Lindsey Graham attend the opening of an ancient road in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan in east Jerusalem yesterday. — AFP

built within the East Jerusalem district of Silwan through purchases of Palestinian-owned property that have at times been contested in court.

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## Tunisia player shining a path for Arab girls

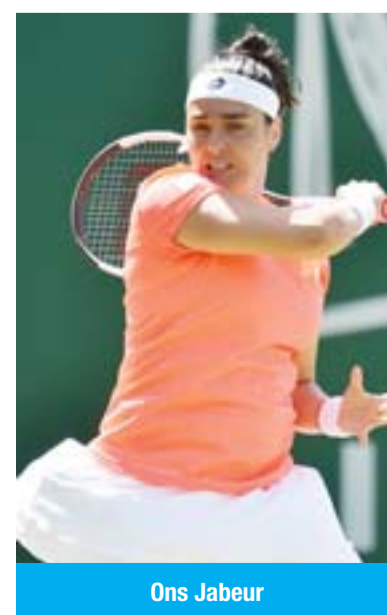
LONDON: When Ons Jabeur takes on twice Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova in the Wimbledon first round next week she will not just be playing for herself, she will fly the flag for Africa. The 24-year-old Tunisian is the only player from the continent in the women's draw and only the second Arabic woman ever to crack the top 100 in the WTA rankings. She does have some company with fellow Tunis resident Malek Jaziri having scraped into the men's draw while South African

Kevin Anderson, last year's runner-up, is the fourth seed.

The WTA has grown its presence rapidly in Asia, a once under-represented region for a sport dominated by Europe and north America, but Africa has largely been left behind. Jabeur reached a career-high 56 in January, surpassing the 75th spot the previous highest-ranked Arab woman Selima Sfar achieved in 2001, but it would not have made many headlines in the north African country where soccer rules.

"I'm trying to give the example for Arabic girls and African girls. It's kind of tough because we don't have much experience in playing tennis," Jabeur told Reuters in an interview. "For me I'm happy to be an example for the young kids.

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Ons Jabeur

## News in brief

### Saudi intercepts Houthi drones

RIYADH: Two Yemeni rebel drones targeting southern Saudi Arabia were intercepted on Saturday, a Riyadh-led military coalition said, the latest in a series of assaults on the kingdom. The first drone targeted the province of Jizan and the second was aimed at a residential area in Asir province, the coalition said in a statement released by the official Saudi Press Agency. The rebels earlier claimed drone attacks on the airports in Jizan and Abha, the capital of Asir, according to the group's Al-Masirah TV. — AFP

### Bahrain to restore citizenships

DUBAI: A Bahraini appeals court overturned a decision to strip the citizenship of 92 Shiites jailed for plotting to form an Iran-linked "terror" group, a judicial source said yesterday. "The appeals court overturned the decision to strip the 92 people of their citizenship," a judicial source told AFP. "But their prison terms remain the same," the source added. Also yesterday, Bahrain's government announced in a statement that it had amended its citizenship law for a second time in recent years. It said the amended law allows authorities to strip the citizenship of individuals who engage in any act of "terror". — AFP

### Palestinian businessman freed

HEBRON: The Palestinian Authority has released from custody a businessman from the city of Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, who was arrested for attending a US-led conference in Bahrain aimed at starting a Middle East peace effort, a family source said yesterday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Salah Abu Mayala, whose "sole crime was taking part in an economic conference aimed at advancing the Palestinian economy," was released "due to American pressure". Trump advisor Jason Greenblatt said yesterday the White House was "pleased" with Abu Mayala's release. — AFP

## Local

## Amir receives top officials, outgoing foreign diplomat



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —KUNA photos



HH the Amir receives the National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



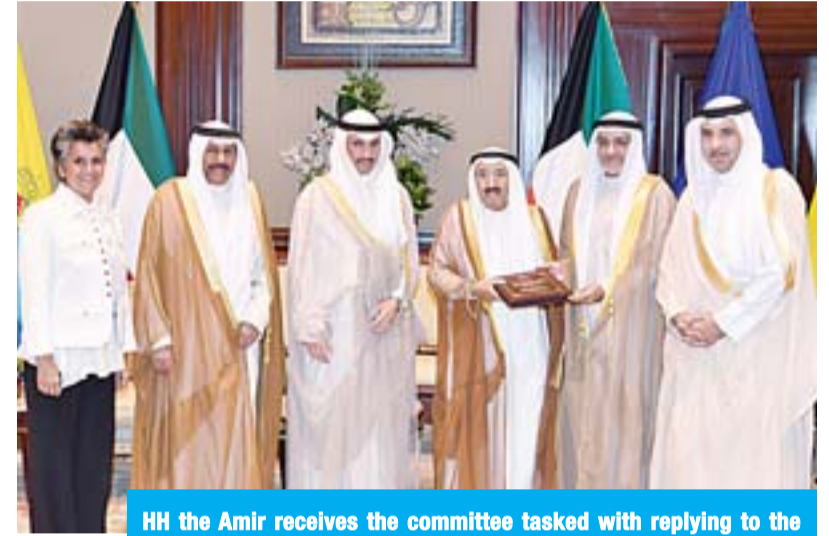
HH the Amir receives the HH Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



HH the Amir receives the outgoing Georgian Ambassador Roland Beritze.



HH the Amir receives the First Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



HH the Amir receives the committee tasked with replying to the Amir's Address.

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received at Bayan Palace, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. HH the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem who was accompanied by members of the committee tasked with replying to HH the Amir

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's address during the 13th regular session of the 15th legislative term.

The committee included chairman MP Dr Khalil Abol and MPs Dr Hamad Al-Harshani, Dr Awadha Al-Ruwa'ie, and Safa Al-Hashim as members. HH the Amir provided the committee with directives aimed

at achieving citizens' aspirations and interests through the cooperation between legislative and executive authorities. Speaker of the National Assembly Al-Ghanem assured His Highness the Amir that parliament will do what is necessary to follow up on his directives. Meanwhile, HH the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad also met with outgoing Georgian Ambassador to Kuwait Roland Beritze. The meeting was attended by acting Minister of the Amiri Diwan Khaled Budai.

## Kuwaiti delegation to UK to view developments in crisis management

**KUWAIT:** A high-level Kuwaiti delegation headed to the UK yesterday on a visit to view the recent developments in crisis management. The delegation, during its several-day visit, will be keen on discussing cooperation with the UK within the domain of crisis management and in ways to enhance cooperation between the two sides. The delegation includes officials from His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan, the Kuwaiti Army, the Interior Ministry, Kuwait National Guard (KNG) and Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS).



**KUWAIT:** The high-level Kuwaiti delegation departing to the UK. —KUNA

## Kuwait bourse ends trading in green zone



**KUWAIT:** Bourse Kuwait ended trading yesterday in the green zone as the Premier Market Index went up by 18.3 points to reach 6,377.02 points. The Main Market Index also rose 22.18 points to reach 4,766.53 points, same as the All Share Market Index up by 19.48 points to stand at 5,832.13 points. The value of trades was at KD 24 million with the volume reaching 156 million shares done through 3,701 deals.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Over the Counter Market (OTC) saw a decline in trading volume last week, with 7.16 million shares changing hands. Shares traded went through 37 transactions worth KD 490,140 (around USD 1.6 million). OTC report, issued yesterday, indicated that 'immediate' transactions saw a negative performance, with trading reaching 3.7 million shares at a value of KD 70,700 (around USD 240,300) through 20 transactions.

As for 'private' transactions, 3.4 million shares traded, valued at KD 419,350 (around USD 1.4 million) through 17 transactions. Bourse Kuwait had launched OTC as a new trading platform for those companies that are not listed in the bourse. OTC transactions are carried out through licensed brokerage offices working under Capital Markets Authority bylaws and Bourse Kuwait regulations. The fresh market aims to create a transparent environment by bringing buyers and sellers together using fully supervised mechanisms. The trading platform adopts the clearing and settlement procedures.

In other news, the exchange rate of the US Dollar remained at KD 0.303, same did the Euro at KD 0.344, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The exchange rate of the British Pound Sterling also held its ground at KD 0.384, while the Swiss Franc was up to KD 0.310. The Japanese Yen was stable KD 0.002. —KUNA

## Crown Prince receives ministers

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received at Bayan Palace First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. HH the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.

He later received, in the presence of Al-Ghanem, members of the committee tasked with replying to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's address during the 13th session of the 15th legislative term.

The committee included chairman MP Dr Khalil Abol and members MPs Dr Hamad Al-Harshani, Dr Awadha Al-Ruwa'ie, and Safa Al-Hashim. HH Sheikh Nawaf also met with outgoing Georgian ambassador to Kuwait Roland Beritze. The latter meeting was attended by head Protocols at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince receives the First Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince receives the Deputy Premier, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince receives the Deputy Premier, Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



HH the Crown Prince receives His Highness the Deputy Premier, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.

Local

# CSC has registered around 400-500 jobseekers weekly

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Informed sources at the Civil Service Commission stressed that since the beginning of the year, the commission had been registering around 400-500 jobseekers weekly, noting it is easier to employ applicants holding medical or technical degrees as they barely wait for a month before getting appointed.

**MoE cameras**

Ministry of Education's assistant under-secretary for financial affairs Yousef Al-Najjar announced that the ministry has installed modern automated surveillance cameras at MoE's warehouses in Subhan, noting that the cameras are on 24/7. Najjar said that upon instructions from Minister Hamed Al-Azmi, the cameras were installed at all MoE warehouses, adding that the system records and keeps old videos to be used as reference in cases of emergencies, such as the recent fires.

**Final warnings**

The Municipality's deputy director for Hawalli and Ahmadi affairs Fahd Al-Shetaili said that owners of occasional tents and marquees in Ahmadi had received final warnings, after which the municipality will remove the tents if the owners do not do so themselves.

**Uncollected fines**

A recent audit report stressed the state treasury is still deprived from making revenues by collecting fines from contractors working for MPW. According to the report, the uncollected fines due on 15 contracting companies, including one fined KD 18.5 mil-

lion, total around KD 44 million until the end of the previous fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2019.

**Land relocation**

Well-informed sources said the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) urged the Cabinet to reallocate land at Kabd storage site after deducting the portions needed for the railway project. PAI also urged the Municipality to take immediate measures in this respect so that the site can be developed and reused.

**Umrah offices raided**

The ministry of awqaf and Islamic affairs raided a number of unlicensed umrah offices, said informed sources, noting that the ministry also urged all imams and muezzins to stop publicizing these offices in mosques. The ministry also urged the offices to legalize their statuses and send lists of pilgrims and letters of guarantee to the ministry's hajj affairs department in due time to avoid legal accountability of up to KD 50,000 in penalties and one year in prison.

**Paying disabled Kuwaiti**

Chairman of the parliamentary committee for the disabled affairs Mubarak Al-Hajraf said in its meeting yesterday, the committee approved a number of proposals including paying every disabled Kuwaiti a KD 10,000 grant regardless of the number of disabled members in a single family. The proposals also included providing various ministries, universities and courts with sign language interpreters, establishing special offices for the disabled in all governorates and providing online services for them.

## Arab children's theater festival begins on July 9th

**KUWAIT:** The seventh Arab children's theater festival will kick-start next Tuesday (July 9) at Al-Dasma Theater and will continue until July 12, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) said yesterday. NCCAL's Assistant Secretary General Dr Bader Al-Duweesh said in a statement that the festival would be held under the patronage of

NCCAL's chairman as well as Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri.

The event will include an honoring of actor Nasser Al-Zayer and will feature four plays, said Al-Duweesh, adding that theater workshops and other related events will be held during the course of the event. On his part, NCCAL's theater affairs department's head Ahmad Al-Tattan revealed that the festival will include a side photo exhibition for the honored actor Al-Zayer and the history of festival since the first event that was held in Tunisia. The main aim of the festival is to spread awareness on the importance of Children Theater in spreading notions of culture and heritage, he added. Al-Tattan said that the NCCAL was keen on filling the time of children especially during the summer vacation.



Dr Bader Al-Duweesh and Ahmad Al-Tattan speaking during the press conference. — KUNA

## Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre wins 'Best Museum Project'

**KUWAIT:** Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre recently won the 'Best Museum Project' award at the 2019 Commercial Integrator Integration Awards. The award recognized the Centre's commitment to deploying world-class audiovisual installations and was presented at this year's Info Comm Show in Orlando, Florida.

Divided into 13 categories by Commercial Integrator magazine, the respective category considers top quality problem-solving installations that address commercial customers' requirements. Through its partnership with Electrosonic, Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre has installed more than 250 exhibits, including a spherical dark ride theatre with 6m immersive screen and 4D full-motion seating. The latest accolade honors the Centre for the pro-

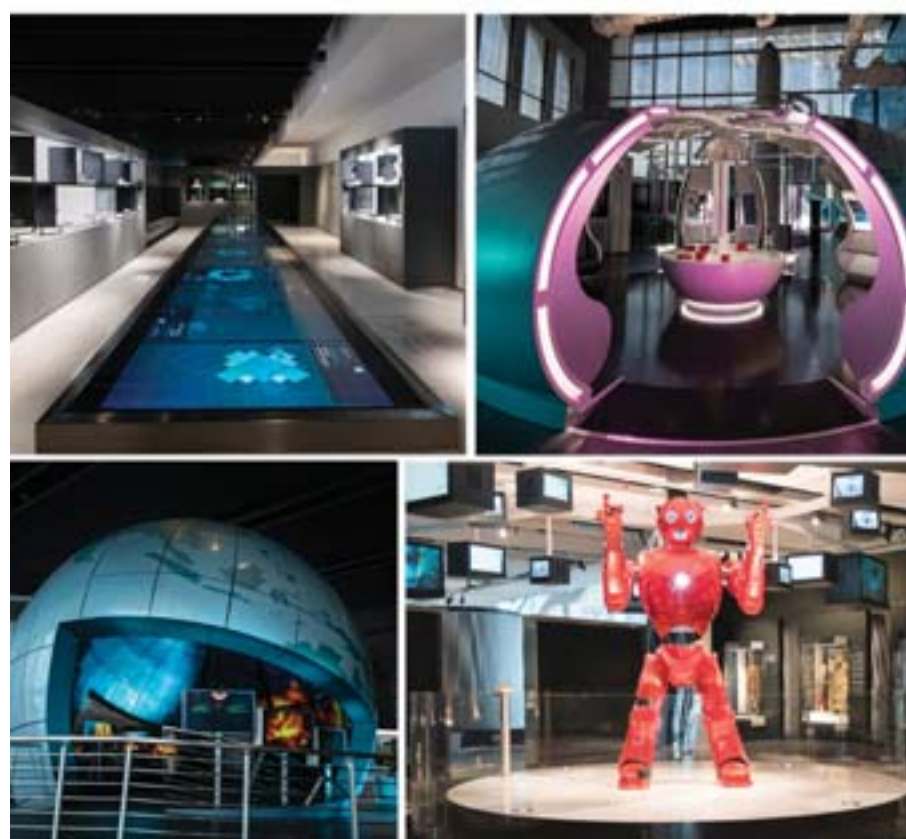
vision of state-of-the-art AV exhibits in each of its four museums: Natural History, Science & Technology, Space, and Arabic Islamic Science.

The deployment of new age-technology and design enables Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre to deliver immersive learning experiences that educate and inspire. These interactive experiences have transformed the Centre into a world-class cultural complex and a prominent symbol of Kuwait's ambition to become a leading social, creative and cultural hub in the region.

Transcending old architectural and technological barriers, Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre is the largest museum project of its kind in the world and was named 'Public Building of the Year' at the prestigious ABB LEAF Awards 2017. The Centre was honored with several premium accolades namely 'The Best Public Services Architecture Building in the MENA' award, and 'Best Architecture Single Residence in the ME' as part of the International Property awards in 2018. Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre is one the many projects developed by the Amiri Diwan to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and promote critical, creative, and interpretive thinking within Kuwaiti society through world-class exhibitions and educational public programs.



جائزة أفضل مشروع عالمي  
مستوى المتاحف في العالم  
**BEST MUSEUM PROJECT**



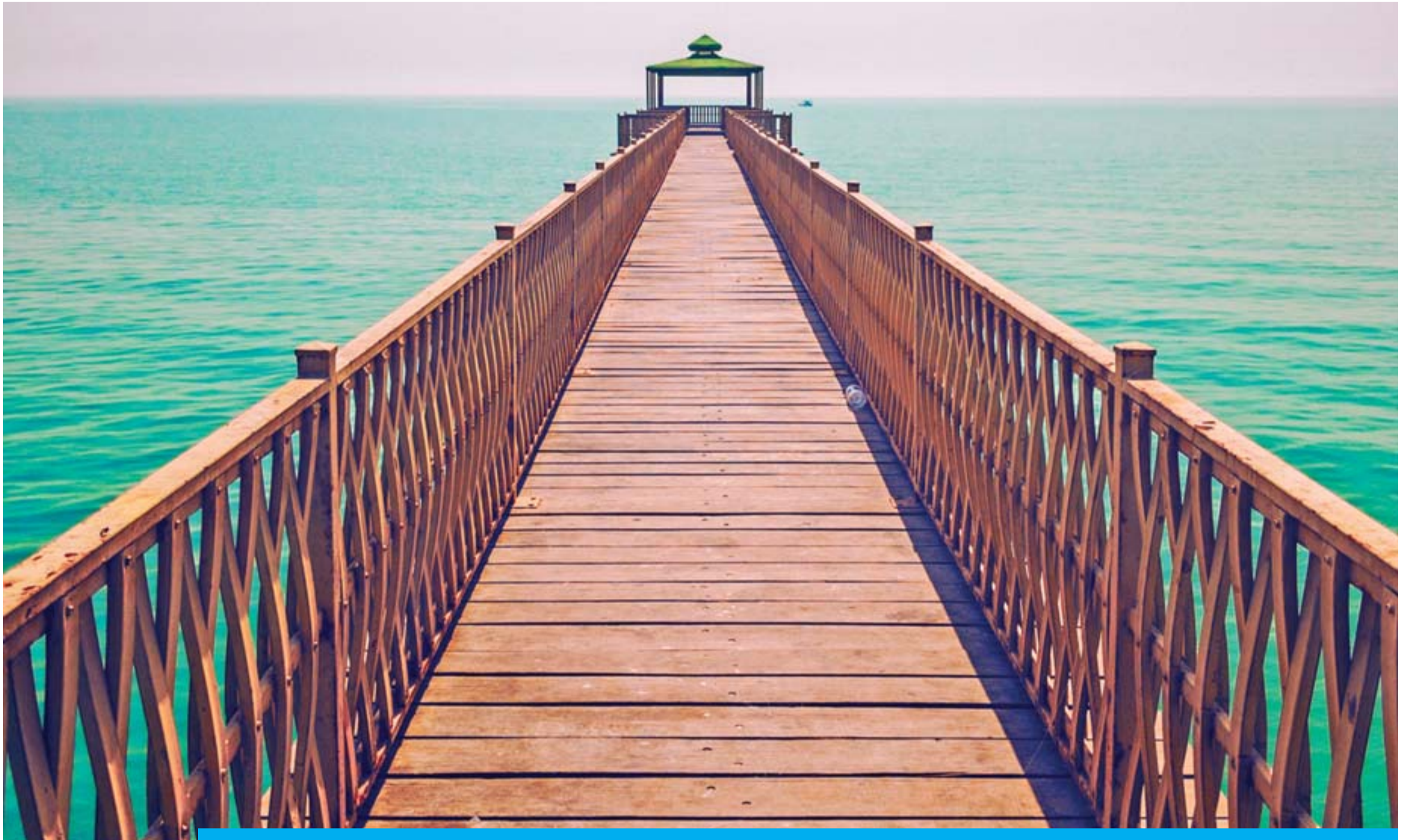
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KUWAIT: The sun shines at the pier near Kuwait Towers. — KUNA

# Zain inaugurates renovated KU admission and registration hall

## Company sponsors hall for over 10 consecutive years, serves over 14K students annually

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its renovation of Kuwait University's Admission and Registration Hall in Shuwaikh. This initiative comes in line with the company's keenness on offering a comfortable atmosphere for students during the upcoming admission and registration period.

The hall's reopening ceremony witnessed the attendance of Kuwait University's Dean of Admission and Registration Dr Ali Al Mutairi and Zain Kuwait's Chief

Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti. Zain has been the hall's main sponsor for over 10 consecutive years, and it serves over 14,000 students annually.

This initiative comes in line with Zain's keenness on continuously supporting education by actively partnering with the various education bodies from both the public and private sectors. The company is a firm believer in the importance of supporting the youth and preparing them

to become tomorrow's leaders. Zain partnered with Kuwait University's Deanship of Admission and Registration to fully renovate the Admission and Registration Hall and prepare it with the necessary furniture and equipment.

The hall receives thousands of students throughout the year during the admission approval and freshmen registration period. Zain was keen on offering students with a comfortable atmosphere while visiting the hall to

finish their admission and registration process. Zain firmly believes in the importance of educational development, as it is essential for individuals to then go-on to be successful and contributing members of society.

The company is committed to playing an active role in the investment of the Kuwaiti human capital. By adopting such initiatives, Zain seeks to support students and allow them to apply their practical skills, achieve their potential, and fully develop their capabilities.



## Marketing, defense and banking the top fields hiring fresh grads: Bayt

**KUWAIT:** The 2019 'Fresh Graduates in the Middle East and North Africa' survey, conducted by Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading career site, and market research agency YouGov, has found that, most MENA graduates (81%) were satisfied with the quality of higher education they received. Qualification of teachers, curriculum, teaching methods applied, quality of infrastructure, technology usage, and value for money paid, were also rated positively by MENA respondents.

65% of respondents say they've considered the job availability in the field they



Omar Tahboub

chose to major in prior to enrolment. At the same time, about two-thirds of respondents who are currently employed work in their field of study, while 37% ended up working in a totally different field. The two most common fields of study pursued by respondents were engineering (17%) and accounting/finance (16%).

### Jobs for fresh graduates

The most popular tool cited by fresh graduates for finding a job is online job sites. Moreover, the most important attribute for fresh graduates when selecting a job is said to be 'the nature of the work/being passionate about the job'.

Most respondents (43%) feel that the biggest challenge they face in finding a job is not knowing how to approach the job search effectively. Lack of previous work experience (42%) is also considered an obstacle. That said, three in five respondents (60%) have managed to acquire work experience before or during college. Of these, 43% worked for a period of up to six months. Fresh graduates are also eager to travel abroad for employment purposes: about two-thirds of the respondents (67%) would consider relocating.

"The 2019 Bayt.com Fresh Graduates are highly satisfied with their higher education and very much prefer using online job sites for entering the workforce and building their career," said Omar Tahboub, General Manager of Bayt.com. "Our goal at Bayt.com is to arm

these graduates with the right tools and information needed to thrive in today's ever-evolving employment sector. Entry-level candidates can easily utilize different tools on Bayt.com that are designed to build their CV, grow their skills and increase their professional knowledge. They can also apply to nearly 20,000 jobs that are available on our site currently."

### Most attractive industries and skills in demand

Based on the survey, in the MENA, the most appealing industries for fresh graduates from a career perspective are banking and finance (23%) and education and academia (19%). Business consultancy, business management and management consulting (18%) and engineering and design (17%) are also popular among fresh graduates.

When it comes to industries that seem to be hiring the highest number of fresh graduates, MENA respondents listed advertising/marketing (20%), followed by military/defense/police (20%), banking/finance (17%), and education/academia (13%). According to 39% of respondents, some industries employ fresh graduates because graduates have lower salary expectations. Another 30% believes that certain industries hire more young graduates because they are compliant and willing to follow instructions. In terms of skills required to excel in the workplace, respondents mentioned computer

skills (59%) as the most important, followed by technical skills (34%), interpersonal/ team skills (34%) and linguistic skills (34%).

Fresh graduates in the MENA consider their skills in communications (42%), computer (43%), academic and technical skills (49%), problem-solving and analytical thinking (50%), negotiation (47%), leadership (46%) and linguistics (46%) to be 'good'. Moreover, they consider themselves to have 'very good' interpersonal and team playing skills (57%), and flexibility and adaptability to change (51%).

Kerry McLaren at YouGov MENA said, "The 2019 Bayt.com Fresh Graduates in the MENA survey shows that more and more employers are opening their doors to fresh graduates, presenting a significant shift in what employers need in these increasingly digital world. Our research reflects the preference of employers in hiring candidates who have already developed interpersonal and technological proficiencies despite being new to the workforce. And this can, in turn, help shape the future of employment across the MENA region."

Data for the 2019 Bayt.com Fresh Graduates in the MENA survey was collected online from 18th April 2019 to 13th May 2019. Results are based on a sample of 1,582 respondents from the following countries: UAE, KSA, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, and others.

Local

# Al-Awadhi praises health minister's decision to establish special offices

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Director of the public authority for the disabled Dr Shafiq Al-Awadhi hailed the health minister's decision to establish special offices for disabled affairs at every health facility. Awadhi also praised the care shown by the minister and his keenness on providing prevention, guidance, treatment and rehabilitation services at various public health facilities, noting that the decision was the result of constant discussion between the health minister and the minister of social affairs and labor.

### Criminal court rejects pleas

The criminal court yesterday rejected pleas made by the defendants in the Ministry of Interior hospitality case and postponed the case to a hearing on Sept 1 to summon more witnesses. Security sources noted that the defendants' attorney demanded releasing the detainees and lifting the travel ban on those already free.

### Fishing season

Chairman of Kuwait Fishermen's Union Thaher Al-Sowayan announced the mullet fishing season will start today, and expressed hope that this year's catch will be more abundant than last year's.

### Municipality inspections

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Fahd Al-Sholah yesterday toured Sabah Al-Ahmad City to inspect municipal services there. During the visit, Sholah met with representatives of the citizens' voluntary committee to discuss residents' problems. He also announced that new cleaning contracts will take effect by October to help improve cleaning services in the city.

### Development projects

With the presence of Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel, Ports Authority Director Sheikh Yousef Al-Abdullah and the reform and development committee at the Municipal Council finished reviewing all the challenges the municipality is facing in development projects. Speaking during the meeting, Aqeel said six of the development plan projects had been facing problems, including the medical city, developing the harbors and the design and construction of specialized desert and marine development research centers. Sheikh Yousef said that the workshop was held to discuss the delayed projects, adding that most projects had been approved except one concerning allocating land to build four storage areas and attract more investments.

## Kuwait DM receives Qatar Ambassador



**KUWAIT:** Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar Bin Muhammad Al-Attiya. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday received Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar Bin Muhammad Al-Attiya at Bayan Palace. During the meeting, both sides discussed major issues and subjects of mutual interest as Sheikh Nasser Sabah hailed deep relations between both the sisterly countries.

The Qatari Ambassador extended an invitation to Sheikh Nasser, on behalf of his country's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdullah Al-Thani, to attend Doha's 19th forum under the banner "Reimagining Governance in a Multi-polar World". Sheikh Nasser lauded the strong bilateral relations between both countries and called for developing and strengthening them. — KUNA

## Technician disappears without doing any work

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti hired an Indian decor technician to do some work and paid him 450 KD in advance, but the technician disappeared without even starting the work. The citizen explained what happened to Ahmadi police and gave them the man's details. Police attempted to call the accused but his phone was switched off.

### Gas station brawl

A Kuwaiti was reportedly beaten by three people at a gas station due to a previous dispute between the citizen and one of the attackers. The victim filed a complaint to the police, who are now working on the case.

### Cemetery fire

A vehicle caught fire in Sulaiykhat cemetery and firemen rushed to the scene to put out the blaze. No injuries were reported.

### Attack in Jahra

A 25-year-old Kuwaiti was driving in Jahra and had a collision with another vehicle. There were two people in the car he hit and they got out and started to attack the man. The attackers broke the man's nose and bruised his face. District police have lodged a felony case against the two and they are being sought. — Al-Rai

## Tanker truck flips on King Fahd road

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A tanker truck flipped over on King Fahd Road yesterday, prompting Nuwaiseeb fire center to quickly respond. The driver suffered a foot injury. Firemen managed to put the truck back on its wheels. They later sprayed foam to deal with a diesel leak and the driver was taken to hospital.



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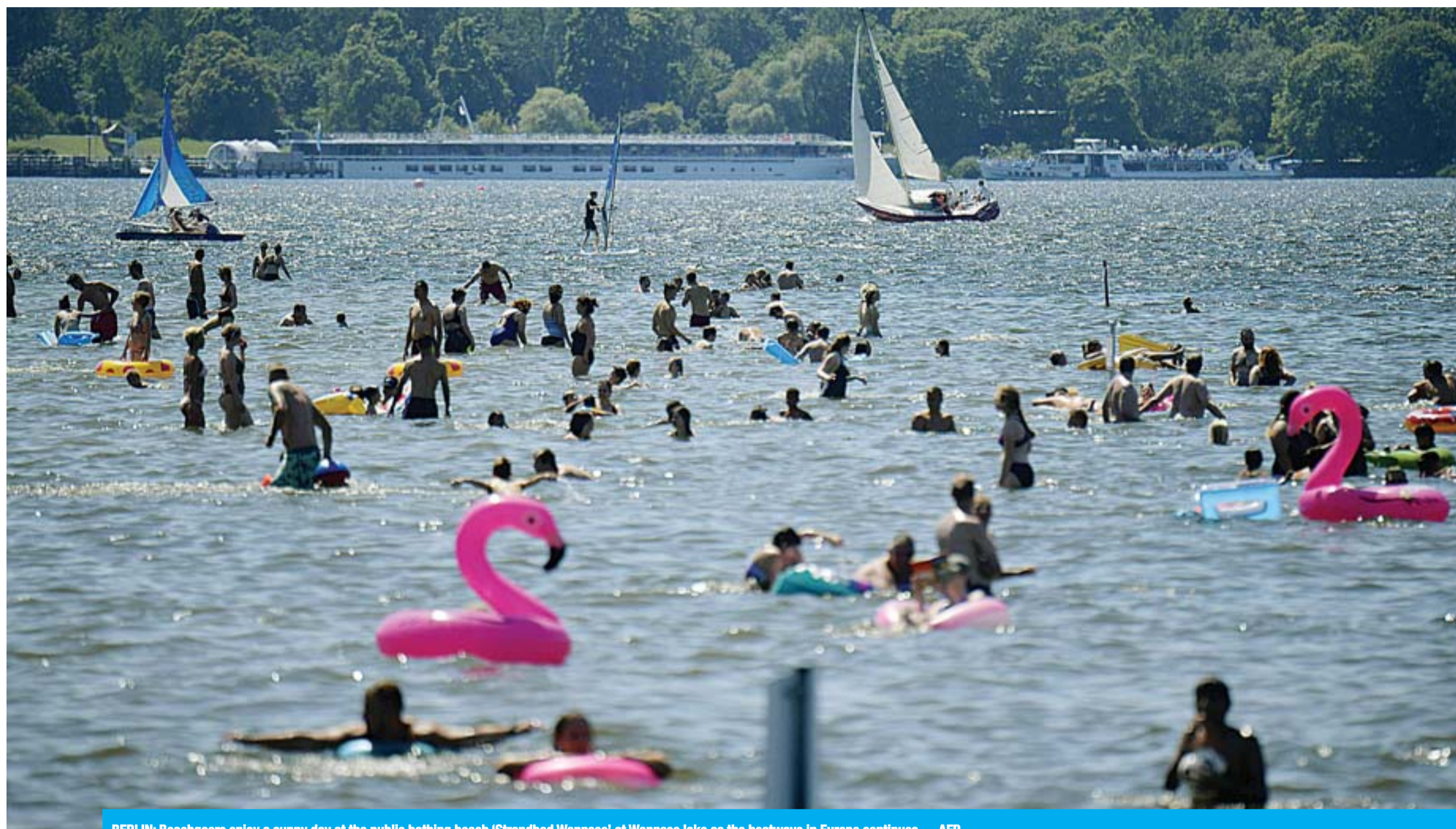
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Canada takes garbage back from Philippines

‘Pandemonium’ in Panmunjom: Kim and Trump hasty DMZ date



BERLIN: Beachgoers enjoy a sunny day at the public bathing beach ‘Strandbad Wannsee’ at Wannsee lake as the heatwave in Europe continues. —AFP

# Hotter than Death Valley: Europe burns

## Wildfires burn fields, homes, cars in France and Spain

**PARIS:** Wildfires burned tracts of land in France and Spain at the weekend as Europe sweltered in record-breaking temperatures that pushed the mercury towards all-time highs yesterday in Germany, killing at least seven people. Temperatures in France’s southern Gard region hit an all-time high of 45.9 degrees Celsius (114.62 degrees F) on Friday - hotter than in California’s Death Valley - sparking scores of fires that burned 550 hectares of land and destroyed several homes and vehicles.

One man died while competing on Saturday in a cycling race in the southwestern Ariège region, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. The 53-year-old crashed after feeling unwell, local public prosecutor Laurent Dumaine said yesterday, adding police were investigating the precise cause of death.

The race was called off after several participants were taken sick due to the heat, organisers said. Another cyclist died in the southern region of Vaucluse, with authorities attributing the man’s collapse to the heatwave. Meteorologists say a weakening of the high-level jet stream is increasingly causing weather systems to stall and leading summer temperatures to soar. Five of Europe’s hottest summers in the last 500 years have happened in this century.

Some 25 out of around 90 administrative departments in France have adopted limits on water use including for agriculture, which could affect harvest yields for summer crops like maize that are often irrigated. “The heatwave has also hit the vineyards of Herault, widespread damage observed,” Jerome Despey, a wine producer in France’s southwestern Herault region and head of the local chamber of agriculture said on Twitter, posting photos of shrivelled grapes.

## Tensions over Iran nuke accord: What are the stakes?

**TEHRAN:** Nearly four years after it was agreed, the 2015 Iran nuclear deal appears to be under serious threat.

### How did we reach this point?

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was concluded on July 14, 2015 in Vienna between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - China, Britain, France, Russia and the US - plus Germany). It sought to bring to an end 12 years of international crisis surrounding a potentially nuclear-armed Iran. Under the terms of the deal, Iran committed never to acquire the atomic bomb and to accept drastic limits on its nuclear programme in exchange for a partial lifting of international sanctions that had been strangling its economy.

Iran also submitted to unprecedented inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But US President Donald Trump’s unilateral

**Extreme risk**  
 In Spain, 40 out of 50 regions have been put under weather alert with seven of them considered to be an extreme risk, the national weather agency said. Temperatures in Girona, in northeastern Spain, reached 43.9 degrees on Friday - the highest ever recorded in the Catalan city. Most of the wildfires that hit Spain in recent days were stabilized over the weekend, but firefighters were struggling to control a blaze in the central provinces of Toledo and Madrid, that has burned more than 20 sq km since Friday. Temperatures eased slightly yesterday although the Spanish national meteorological agency predicted the mercury could stay over 40 degrees Celsius in some parts of the country, in particular in the northeast. At least seven heat-related deaths have been reported in recent days: In addition to the two French cyclists, two people have died in Spain and three in Italy.

**Race against global warming**  
 Germany’s weather service warned of “extreme” heat yesterday, forecasting peak temperatures of up to 39 degrees Celsius from Saxony in the east to the upper Rhine in the west. That’s just below an all-time high of 40.3 Celsius. In Frankfurt, an IronMan endurance event went ahead after organisers issued an advisory to the 3,000 competitors to caution them over the dangers of getting overheated.

They provided 9,000 litres of electrolytic drinks and 30,000 litres of water to keep athletes hydrated; and 12 tonnes of ice to cool them down. “It felt like a race against global warming - you could have fried an egg on my head,” said second-placed finisher Sebastian Kienle. The World Meteorological Organization said this week

withdrawal from the deal on May 8, 2018 - and subsequent sanctions - have deprived Iran of the economic benefits it expected and plunged it into recession. Exactly a year after the US withdrew, Tehran announced it no longer felt beholden to two Vienna commitments. It gave the remaining parties 60 days to help it bypass US sanctions, or it would withdraw from two further commitments.

### What commitments has Iran renounced?

On May 8, President Hassan Rouhani said that Iran would temporarily cease to limit its stocks of heavy water and low-enriched uranium to 130 tonnes and 300 kilogrammes (660 pounds) respectively. Tehran has not yet breached these Vienna ceilings, but it does appear to be flirting with the uranium limit. An Iranian official said Friday that the national stock had hit 297.2 kilogrammes.

### What are the other threats?

Iran has threatened to start enriching uranium above the agreed maximum purification level of 3.67 percent from July 7. Weapons-grade levels are about 90 percent. It has also threatened to resume building from that date a heavy water reactor - capable of one day producing plutonium - in Arak in central Iran, a project that had been mothballed under the deal.



CENICIENTOS, Spain: A Canadair drops water over a wildfire on the outskirts of Cenicientos in central Spain yesterday. —AFP

that 2019 was on track to be among the world’s hottest years on record, which would make 2015-2019 the hottest five-year period.

The European heatwave was “absolutely consistent” with extremes linked to the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the WMO. Addressing thou-

### What does Iran want?

The threats are “above all a call for help by Iran to its partners - to escape the growing difficulties which American sanctions have heaped on the economy”, Francois Nicoullaud, a former French ambassador to Iran, told AFP. For Clement Therme, a researcher on Iran at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Tehran seeks “primarily to preserve” the Vienna deal itself. “The main problem for Iran is to avoid economic collapse... without provoking a war.” But a military conflict “is a real probability due to the effects of Washington’s strategy”, Therme told AFP.

### Is there a danger of proliferation?

“As long as Iran does not get close to a threshold of a tonne of lightly enriched uranium, there is no pressing concern”, Nicoullaud said. But if Iran “amassed, for example, a stock of 200 to 300 kilogrammes of uranium enriched to nearly 20 percent, there would be cause for great concern”. But even under that scenario, Nicoullaud noted, Iran could still not be deemed to be within months of being able to detonate a nuclear device.

And a growing stock of heavy water “presents no danger of proliferation, at least for many years”, he said. The retired diplomat also pointed out that Iran

sands of people in St Peter’s Square for a Sunday address and blessing, Pope Francis said he was praying for those suffering most from the heat wave - the sick, the old, construction workers and those who had to labour outdoors. “May no-one be abandoned or exploited,” he said. —Reuters

has not indicated it will expel IAEA inspectors, so “the evolution of the (nuclear) programme can still be observed”. For Therme, a relaunch of the programme would be “above all dangerous for Iran’s population because it would drive the country into total isolation and even greater impoverishment of the people.”

### What are the risks beyond July 7?

If the remaining co-signatories are unable to ease the impact of US sanctions by July 7, “it is probable that Iran will follow through on its threats”, Nicoullaud warned. “But Iran’s partners, and particularly the Europeans, would have no interest in immediately sanctioning” the Islamic Republic, because this would immediately harden the situation, he observed.

Therme believes that the remaining signatories want “to avoid a war while giving respite to Iran’s economy”. “The perception of an imminent risk of an American war... could drive the Europeans, the Chinese and the Russians to provide guarantees to the Islamic Republic” on economic matters. Therme said the UAE, Qatar and Oman also favour de-escalation, which could further feed into a multilateral diplomatic effort based on common economic and security interests. —AFP

## International

# Confrontations after rally to support Hong Kong's police

## Hong Kong's worst political unrest in a generation

**HONG KONG:** Angry confrontations broke out around Hong Kong's parliament yesterday as protesters supporting the city's police taunted anti-government demonstrators on the eve of the anniversary of the semi-autonomous territory's 1997 handover from Britain to China. Crowds of police supporters chanted "Chinese traitors!" and profanities at their largely young opponents - highlighting the ideological fissures running through the finance hub as it experiences its worst political unrest in a generation.

Hong Kong saw two record-breaking rallies earlier this month by anti-government protesters opposed to a now-postponed plan to approve extradition to mainland China. But it has also been rocked by unprecedented clashes. On 12 June police used tear gas and rubber bullets to clear largely young anti-extradition protesters from around parliament.

The police classified the demonstration as a riot and defended their tactics, but opponents have accused officers of using excessive force and called for an independent inquiry. Twice in the last two weeks the city's police headquarters has been blockaded by angry crowds. Yesterday it was the turn of pro-government supporters, who rallied in their tens of thousands, many waving Chinese flags. "I can't put up with peoples' behaviour towards police," 70-year-old demonstrator Frances Yu told AFP.

### Small camp

A 54-year-old office worker, who gave his surname as Wong, said officers were trying to "maintain order" and that anti-extradition demonstrators had gone too far. "It's like they went crazy, those who charged, lam-

basted police... I find it so senseless," he said. The rally, which heard speeches from pro-Beijing lawmakers and former police brass, passed off without incident. But as the pro-government supporters headed for home, many turned on small groups of anti-government opponents who have kept a small camp outside the parliament for the last three weeks.

Police had to repeatedly intervene to help largely young anti-government protesters escape after they were surrounded by larger crowds of pro-establishment supporters, many jabbing fingers in their opponents' chests, scuffling with them and hurling insults. "Traitors!" and "Rioters!" were the two most common chants from police supporters as well as a plethora of Cantonese swear words.

Much of the protest artwork and posters pinned to the city's parliament walls were also torn down by police supporters as they passed by. The pro-democracy camp will hold another rally on Monday, with organisers expecting a huge turnout. The extradition protests were the latest manifestation of growing fears, especially among young Hong Kongers, that China is trampling on the city's unique freedoms and culture - aided by the pro-Beijing government.

Years of protests calling for Hong Kongers to be able to elect their leaders have won no concessions from Beijing. But there is also a staunchly nationalist, pro-establishment strain that runs through the city, especially among older generations, who regard pro-democracy protesters with disdain and welcome Beijing's increased control.

Organisers of the pro-police rally told local media some 165,000 people attended while police gave a



**HONG KONG:** Demonstrators rally in support of police outside the Legislative Council in Hong Kong yesterday. The international finance hub witnessed the worst political violence in a generation as police fought largely young demonstrators opposed to a now postponed plan to allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland. —AFP

lower figure of 53,000 at its peak. Yesterday, Zhou Fengsuo, a survivor of Beijing's deadly Tiananmen crackdown, said he was denied entry into Hong Kong

on arrival at the airport, posting a picture online of the refusal form he was given by immigration once he landed in Taiwan. —AFP

## Libyan fighters seize US, Chinese missiles from Haftar forces

**TRIPOLI:** Forces allied to Libya's internationally recognised government based in Tripoli captured sophisticated US and Chinese rockets as well as drones when they seized a town from eastern forces last week, officials said on Saturday. On Wednesday, Tripoli's forces took Gharyan, south of the capital, which eastern forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar had used as their main supply base to attack Tripoli, home to the recognised administration. Officials showed journalists weapons they said had been seized, among them sophisticated US-made Javelin anti-tank missiles.

They also presented advanced Chinese-made laser-guided artillery shells, and said combat drones had been

also been captured, in addition to some 150 prisoners. Inscriptions on the Javelin missiles said they had originally belonged to the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates, one of Haftar's main backers. UN reports have previously said that the UAE and Egypt have been arming Haftar's Libya National Army (LNA) since 2014, but details have been unclear.

Oded Berkowitz, Israeli security analyst and deputy chief intelligence officer of the MAX consultancy, said it was the first time that Javelins had been sighted in the Libya conflict. "The weapons themselves are highly advanced but wouldn't be a game changer in Libya," he said. "The real political game changer is the fact that advanced US systems were delivered to a third party, and this may push the US to oppose the UAE and their support for the LNA."

Haftar began his assault on Tripoli on April 4, surprising the United Nations, which had been preparing for a national conference to try to end the chaos gripping Libya since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. The offensive by the



**TRIPOLI:** Fighters loyal to the internationally-recognised Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) display US-made Javelin anti-tank missile and precision guided munition, which were reportedly confiscated from forces loyal to General Khalifa Haftar in Gharyan. —AFP

LNA, which is allied to a parallel administration in the east, has not made it beyond the southern suburbs of Tripoli.

Turkey has supplied Tripoli's forces with drones and other military equipment, according to diplomats. —Reuters

## Syrians dig, cook, fill sandbags in war with Assad

**ATARIB:** Away from the frontlines, volunteers are helping in the war against President Bashar Al-Assad by cooking, filling sandbags, collecting old tyres and digging trenches, aiming to help ward off his assault on northwestern Syria. It is part of the civilian effort to help defend the last major rebel stronghold from Assad and his Russian allies who have been pounding it for weeks.

Abu Abdo, 51, says he is playing his part by collecting old tyres to be burned by fighters to create a smoke screen from hostile warplanes. "We go to places where tyres are repaired, collect them and take them to the fighters," said Abu Abdo, 51, as he piled tyres into the back of a truck with the help of his sons in the town of Salqin. "These tyres have no value but protect (the fighters) and keep the enemy busy," said Abu Abdo, as two of sons sat atop the pile of tyres in the back of the truck.

In recent years, Assad's opponents have poured into northwestern Syria from other parts of Syria that have been taken from rebels. The region, which includes Idlib province and parts of neighbouring provinces, has an estimated 3 million inhabitants, about half of whom had

already fled fighting elsewhere according to the United Nations. With nowhere else for these people to flee, many have a stake in fending off the attack on the northwest. To this end, activists and religious leaders launched a campaign in May called "fire an arrow with them".

Volunteers at work in a kitchen in the town of Atarib are preparing 2,000 meals a day for fighters as part of the campaign. Yellow rice is spooned from large vats into polystyrene trays and lentil soup is poured into bags ready for delivery to fighters. "The car leaves from here to the frontlines under air strikes and surveillance sometimes," said a 40-year-old man at work in the kitchen who gave his name as Abu Wael. "God willing we continue so these meals reach the fighters."

### Digging trenches

At a nearby quarry, sacks that once contained rice were being filled with grit for use as sandbag defences. "We are filling according to the demand of the front-line. The command centre, for example, requests 200 bags or 1,000 bags for one position," said Khaled Al-Jamal, 26, at work with a group of other volunteers.

He finished his high school education but was unable to register at university once the war began in 2011. He hopes his effort will help fighters so "all their effort is directed at repelling the regime". In Salqin, men use shovels, pick axes and pneumatic drills to dig a trench in an olive grove as part of another civilian cam-



**KAFRANBEL:** A man gazes at rubble and damaged vehicles following reported air strikes by the Syrian regime ally Russia, in the town of Kafranbel in the rebel-held part of the Syrian Idlib province. —AFP

paign, this one called "the Popular Resistance Battalions".

A long way from the frontline, Yehya al-Sheikh, 38, says the trench he is digging with others will provide protection from air strikes for a family living nearby. "We came to dig trenches to defend ourselves and our people and to support our Mujahideen brothers against Bashar al-Assad." Some 300,000 people in the northwest have been uprooted since late April and local sources have reported that hundreds of civilians including women

and children have been killed, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says.

The territory is largely controlled by Tahrir Al-Sham, a jihadist group representing the latest incarnation of the Nusra Front, formerly Al-Qaeda's Syrian wing, though groups fighting under the banner of the Free Syrian Army also have a presence. The Syrian government, which has vowed to recover "every inch" of Syria, says it is responding to attacks by Al-Qaeda-linked jihadists. —Reuters

## UN urges action to avert climate change 'catastrophe'

**ABU DHABI:** UN chief Antonio Guterres said climate-related devastation was striking the planet on a weekly basis and warned yesterday that urgent action must be taken to avoid a catastrophe. "We are here because the world is facing a grave climate emergency," Guterres told a two-day Abu Dhabi Climate Meeting to prepare for a Climate Action Summit in New York in September. Guterres said destructive climate change was moving at an increasingly fast pace.

"Climate disruption is happening now... It is progressing even faster than the world's top scientists have predicted," the UN secretary general said. "It is outpacing our efforts to address it. Climate change is running faster than we are," he said. "Every week brings new climate-related devastation... floods, drought, heatwaves, wildfires and super storms," Guterres said. He warned the situation would only deteriorate unless "we act now with ambition and urgency", but some of the world's decision-makers still did not realize the dangers.

The meeting in Abu Dhabi, with government and civil society participants from dozens of countries, will select from 100 proposals for protecting the climate, said UN special envoy Luis Alfonso de Alba. "I think what is important is to identify those proposals that have transformation impact," De Alba told AFP. The selected proposals will be submitted to the summit in New York, he said. The UN chief held out hope that the Paris Agreement could cut harmful emissions and reduce global warming.

"But we know that even if the promises of Paris are fully met, we still face at least a three-degree temperature rise by the end of the century - a catastrophe for life as we know it," Guterres said. He was convening the Climate Action Summit because many countries were not even keeping pace with their promises under the Paris Agreement.

Under the Paris Agreement, the world is required to keep temperature rise under 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. France's secretary of state for ecological and inclusive transition, Brune Poirson, taking part in the Abu Dhabi meeting, called for "mobilizing private financing" to fund climate programs and actions. "What we have to do is mobilize more private capital and instead of having private money invested in coal projects... it should be invested in renewable energy," she told AFP.

She called on developed countries to fulfill their pledge under the Paris Agreement to transfer \$100 billion to developing nations. A landmark report last year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said a safer cap of a 1.5 degree rise would see nations rapidly slash planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions via a sharp drawdown of fossil fuel use.

But some high-polluting nations, led by Saudi Arabia, have questioned the IPCC's findings, leading to angry exchanges at closed-door talks in Bonn. IPCC warned in October that warming was on track towards a catastrophic 3C or 4C rise, and that avoiding global chaos would require a major transformation. In his speech, the UN secretary general also called for governments to "stop subsidizing fossil fuels... (and) stop building new coal plants by 2020". —AFP

## Stateless woman tells how she couldn't visit her dying dad

**THE HAGUE:** When Ekaterina's father was dying she could not visit him in Uzbekistan because she did not have a passport - so she tried to get herself deported. But as a stateless person living in the United States, she could not even do that. Ekaterina is among hundreds of thousands of ex-Soviet citizens who have not been able to acquire the nationality of any of the successor states since the break-up of the bloc.

Some like Ekaterina, who was abroad when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, have been stranded in limbo ever since. Ekaterina told her story in a film shown at a global conference on statelessness in The Hague that ends on Friday. Stateless people do not have passports so were unable to attend in person to tell their stories, although delegates included a number of formerly stateless people.

An empty chair was placed next to panelists speaking at the conference to symbolize the people who could not be there. Ekaterina is a member of United Stateless, a campaign group comprising stateless people from various backgrounds living in the United States. There are an estimated 10 to 15 million stateless people globally who are not recognized as a citizen of any country. There are no statistics on the number in

the United States.

People end up stateless for a host of complex historical, social and legal reasons - including migration, flawed citizenship laws and ethnic discrimination. Sometimes called "nowhere people" or "legal ghosts", they are often deprived of basic rights and vulnerable to exploitation. "Stateless people live in fear of detention - all the time," said another woman in the video called DA who was born stateless in Kuwait. Ekaterina said she had not been able to end her statelessness even though she was married to an American.

"Several years ago I learnt my father was dying. I made the heart-wrenching decision to deport myself to be by his side. I was denied deportation," she said, adding she had not seen her family for 24 years. Miliyon, born to an Eritrean father and Ethiopian moth-

er, said he had spent \$50,000 on legal fees but still had no solution in sight. "I'm a tax payer and I cannot open a bank account, I cannot get a driving licence, I cannot report a crime," he said. The United Nation launched an ambitious campaign in 2014 to eradicate statelessness within a decade.

Some countries, including Brazil, the Netherlands and Britain, have set up procedures which provide stateless people with a way to legalise their residence so they can rebuild their lives. Melanie Khanna, head of the UN refugee agency's section on statelessness, urged the United States to set up a stateless determination procedure to help those like Ekaterina. She said stateless people often lived isolated lives and hoped United Stateless would spur the creation of similar groups around the world. —Reuters

## International

# 'Pandemonium' in Panmunjom: Kim and Trump hasty DMZ date

## 'Would you like me to come across?'

**PANMUNJOM:** Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un's first two summits were highly choreographed affairs but their third date was an unscripted event seemingly arranged on a social media whim - and threatened at times to descend into chaos. Trump admitted he did not know whether Kim would spurn his advances, delivered via Twitter.

"When I put out the social media notification, if he didn't show up, the press was going to make me look very bad," the US president said. "So you made us both look good," he told Kim. The optics of their DMZ dalliance stood in sharp contrast to the made-for-TV blockbusters in Singapore and Hanoi, where everything was precisely arranged down to the last detail.

At their first encounter in Singapore, they emerged from two wings of a stage at precisely the same moment, meeting exactly in the middle for the historic handshake in front of equal numbers of North Korean and US flags. But Trump insisted he thought of getting together with Kim only on Saturday, when his online invitation for the Panmunjom powwow electrified the G20 summit in Japan. For his part, Kim admitted he was "surprised" by the tweet and a subsequent more formal invitation.

### Slow walk to history

In the event, no one seemed sure when the two leaders should start their walks to the border. Someone peeked out from Freedom House on the southern side, appearing to raise their hand to the north and hastily retreating. A few seconds later Trump emerged from the glass doors while Kim, in his trademark Mao suit,

advanced from the steps of Panmungak, an imposing building on the northern side.

But despite Trump's visible efforts to walk as slowly as possible he arrived on the line several seconds before Kim. Another historic handshake, then some gesticulation from the US president, apparently pointing to North Korean soil before he took his leap into history, becoming the first occupant of the White House to set foot in the North. Under a travel ban imposed by his own administration, ordinary US citizens are not allowed to journey to the isolated country without special dispensation.

They clasped hands again on the Pyongyang side, as five North Korean photographers and cameramen buzzed around them frantically - frequently spoiling the view for snappers on the southern side, much to their frustration. "Move! Clear! Hey! Get the photographers out the way," journalists screamed, throwing in a few expletives as the North Korean media stepped into their shot at history.

Even that high point was up in the air until the last moment, according to the US President. "I said: 'Would you like me to come across?'" Trump said. "He said: 'I would be honoured'. I did not really know what he was going to say." On the southern side, Trump whispered into Kim's ear - making the North Korean leader burst out laughing - before they met South Korean President Moon Jae-in, arguably the matchmaker in their unlikely bromance, as reporters jostled and hollered questions.

Trump had initially said it would be a brief handshake to "say hello" and had said it could be as short as "two minutes." But the pair remained locked behind



**PANMUNJOM:** US President Donald Trump steps into the northern side of the Military Demarcation Line that divides North and South Korea, as North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un looks on, in the Joint Security Area (JSA) of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) yesterday. —AFP

closed doors for nearly an hour, emerging with an agreement to direct their officials to push ahead with negotiations over Pyongyang's nuclear programme. In the end, it was anything but a brief encounter. —AFP

## 15,000 villagers flee dangerous ash falls; PNG volcanic erupt

**SYDNEY:** Volcanic eruptions in Papua New Guinea (PNG) have forced 15,000 villagers in the country's northeast to flee their homes, aid agencies said yesterday. Mount Ulawun on PNG's northeastern island of New Britain exploded suddenly on Wednesday, shooting an ash column 18 km (11.18 miles) into the air, while nearby Manam erupted on Friday, sending dangerous pyroclastic flows down its slopes.

There were no reported casualties but the eruptions destroyed homes, plantations and wells, leaving villagers without food and water while ash columns disrupted domestic flights. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said as of yesterday, 3,775 people had fled the Manam eruption and 11,047 people from the Mount Ulawun eruption and taken shelter in refuge centres.

Volcanic ash has blanketed the area with tiny glass-like particles that can permanently damage the lungs, leading to sickness or death. Leo Mapmani of the West New Britain Provincial Disaster Centre said health risks from the ash falls meant people were unable to return to their homes while the dust would damage food crops if rains did not wash it off soon.

"If it is on the hill tops and the tree tops and the wind blows, people will inhale it," he told Reuters by telephone from West New Britain's provincial capital of Kimbe. Manam Island resident Jordan Sauba told local media his house was destroyed by ash and stones. "We had nowhere to go so we went under the house and hid there for at least eight hours," he said from Manam Island. PNG Red Cross, provincial governments, provincial disaster centres and the Salvation Army have taken emergency supplies to the shelters. IFRC PNG head Udaya Regmi said yesterday.

It was unclear when villagers would be able to return to their homes, he said. PNG Prime Minister James Marape visited the Ulawun refuge shelters in West New Britain province yesterday. Marape had previously said he would send the defence force to help. Steve Saunders, principal geodetic surveyor at the Rabaul Volcano Observatory told Reuters that Manam was expected to continue to erupt with active lava flows from the summit to the sea. "Satellites are monitoring the gas and temperatures and we're monitoring deformation to see if we have any uplift," he said. —Reuters

## DMZ: World's last Cold War frontier

**SEOUL:** Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un shook hands at the Demilitarized Zone yesterday, with the US leader becoming the first sitting president to enter the North when he stepped over the thin concrete line that divides the Korean peninsula. Trump's visit to the DMZ came just a day after he extended a Twitter invite to Kim to come and meet him at a place widely referred to as the world's last Cold War frontier. Here are some questions and answers about the Demilitarized Zone, which is based on the positions held at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, where South Korean forces backed by a US-led UN coalition fought to a standstill with North Korean and Chinese troops.

### Where is it?

The four-kilometre-wide DMZ runs for 250 kilometres across the Korean peninsula, around 50 kilometres north of Seoul and 200 kilometres south of Pyongyang. At its centre is the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), where the front line lay when the ceasefire stopping Korean War hostilities was signed in 1953. Under the agreement both sides agreed to pull back their forces 2,000 metres. To the south, Seoul has established a further buffer zone of varying width where civilian access is restricted.

## Tensions high as Albanians vote in disputed local poll

**TIRANA:** Albanians cast ballots yesterday in tense municipal elections that have become the flashpoint of a democratic crisis, with the opposition boycotting the vote and refusing to recognise its results. The Balkan state has been roiled by political turmoil since February, when opposition politicians resigned from parliament to launch street protests against Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama.

They accuse him of crime links and manipulating elections, which he denies. Citing the unrest, Albania's President Ilir Meta announced a postponement of the municipal poll earlier this month. But Prime Minister Rama and election authorities have decided to forge ahead with the voting regardless.

Yesterday, groups of several dozen opposition supporters protested outside some polling stations in the capital of Tirana, shouting "Don't vote!" and "Rama, go!". "No one can stop me from voting," Arjan Celi, a 45-year-old engineer, told AFP after passing the protesters to mark his ballot, saying it was his democratic duty.

exploitation", including making them commit crimes, most commonly through forced begging. Homeless people were involved in 276 cases of modern slavery reported to the Modern Slavery Helpline since the dedicated hotline was set up in October 2016 by Unseen, the charity found.

Labour abuse was the main form of exploitation, accounting for 54 percent of cases and three-quarters of victims recorded by the hotline, which receives calls from the public, police, activists, healthcare professionals and modern slaves directly.

### What is it?

A barrier separating North and South, heavy weaponry is banned within the DMZ. Patrols are allowed but cannot cross the MDL and no more than 1,000 people from each side are permitted inside the zone at any one time. It is also littered with minefields. The areas immediately outside it are some of the most highly fortified places on earth, bristling with artillery, military camps, and more minefields.

### What does it look like?

With the DMZ a "no man's land" that has seen minimal human presence for more than half a century, much of the zone itself is lush forest, renowned as an ecological refuge for rare species of flora and fauna whose habitat elsewhere has been destroyed by development. An Asiatic black bear was photographed there last October, according to Seoul's environmental ministry. Within the zone, watchtowers poke up from hilltops, and barbed-wire fences line its edges.

### Who has been there?

The US and South Korea have been in a security alliance for decades and a trip to the DMZ is something of a ritual for visiting US leaders. Then president George W. Bush went in February 2002, a month after he named North Korea as part of his "axis of evil". The last to go was Barack Obama in 2012, and US Vice President Mike Pence went to the border in April 2017 amid heightened tensions with the reclusive state. President Donald Trump tried to visit

But Entela Mushi, an economist among the crowd of protesters, vowed: "These elections will not be recognised and our resistance will be strong."

On the eve of the polls, right-wing opposition leader Luzlim Basha urged his supporters to boycott the election and hold "non-violent demonstrations everywhere." They are under heavy pressure from Western powers to remain peaceful, with the European countries and the US issuing stern warnings against violence or obstruction of voting. The Organization for Security and Co-operating in Europe (OSCE), whose observers are monitoring the poll, also urged the "utmost restraint".

"Any attempt to derail the democratic process through violent action stalls the progress of Albania and stains the country's international reputation," it said in a statement. In the past two weeks, opposition supporters have attacked polling stations in several parts of the country in an effort to destroy election materials, setting fire to two schools in the process. Their weekly anti-Rama protests have also at times boiled over into violent clashes with police.

### 'Democratic test'

The political turbulence is brewing at a sensitive moment for Albania, which is waiting for EU member states to decide on its application to open accession talks. The



**OSAN AIR BASE:** US President Donald Trump speaks as he meets US troops and their families stationed in South Korea following his meeting with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un at the Joint Security Area (JSA) in Panmunjom in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ). —AFP

seven months later but his helicopter was forced to turn back due to heavy fog. Most notably, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korea's Kim held two of their three summits last year at Panmunjom, a "truce village" within the DMZ.

### What is Panmunjom?

Also known as the Joint Security Area (JSA), Panmunjom is a series of buildings centred on several blue UN meeting huts right on the MDL, which have become emblematic of the division of the peninsula.

The 1953 armistice was signed in a building on the northern side, and the JSA was the site of the 1976 "Axe Murder Incident", when two US military officials seeking to cut down a tree that obscured visibility were hacked to death by North Korean soldiers. It is the only place in the DMZ where soldiers from South and North Korea stand face to face, although under the terms of an inter-Korean agreement Moon and Kim signed at their third summit last year in Pyongyang, they no longer carry arms. —AFP



**SURREL:** Opposition supporters holding slogans reminiscing Albania's communist past protest in front of a polling station in Tirana yesterday. —AFP

bloc was initially supposed to make a decision in June, but has now postponed it until October. Yesterday's vote was a "test of Albania's democratic maturity," said political analyst Aleksander Cipa. "Any act of violence would be harmful to Albania's image, its democracy and its political class," he added.

The aftermath of the election is likely to be messy, with the opposition refusing to

accept the results. Lutfi Dervishi, a media expert at the Media Institute in Tirana, believes "the political crisis has not yet reached its peak". To further complicate matters, the country's top arbiter — the Constitutional Court — is currently out of commission due to a judicial reform process that has seen all but one judge resign or removed from the bench amid a corruption probe. —AFP

## Traffickers targeting UK homeless people

**LONDON:** Homeless people are among the victims in 7% of all reported modern slavery cases in Britain, according to research by the anti-slavery charity Unseen released recently. Unseen said traffickers were "purposefully targeting homeless people for

various vulnerabilities such as poverty, substance dependencies and language barriers.

The study also showed a high number of people escape from modern slavery only to find themselves homeless. More than 350 of the potential victims in cases reported to the hotline between October 2016 and April 2019 were homeless either before, during or after they escaped captivity, it found. Unseen runs safe houses for survivors and works with businesses, police, government and others to end slavery. —Reuters

"Traffickers often gain people's trust at soup kitchens and drop ins and trick them into slavery through false stories of success and money," said Andrew Smith, chief executive of the charity Hull Homelessness.

Britain is home to at least 136,000 modern slaves, according to the Global Slavery Index by rights group Walk Free Foundation - a figure 10 times higher than a government estimate from 2013. The manager of the Modern Slavery Helpline Rachel Harper said common recruitment tactics included targeting



## International

# Canada takes garbage back from Philippines, ending long dispute

## Asian nations 'tired of being the world's trash dump'

**VANCOUVER:** Tonnes of Canadian garbage left in the Philippines for years arrived back home Saturday, putting an end to a festering diplomatic row that highlighted how Asian nations have grown tired of being the world's trash dump. A cargo vessel loaded with about 69 containers of rubbish docked in a port on the outskirts of Vancouver, according to an AFP reporter at the scene. The trash will be incinerated at a waste-to-energy facility, local officials said. The conflict dates back to 2013 and 2014, when a Canadian company shipped containers mislabeled as recyclable plastics to the Philippines.

The shipment actually contained a mixture of paper, plastics, electronics, and household waste, including kitchen trash and diapers, even though Philippine law prohibits imports of mixed plastics and household trash. Some of the waste was disposed of in the Philippines, but much of it stewed in local ports for years. The issue polluted bilateral relations for years, but tensions came to a head in April when Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to "declare war" against Canada unless it reclaimed the garbage.

Canada missed a May 15 deadline to repatriate the rubbish, but then made arrangements soon thereafter to move it back to Canadian soil. Canada's Environment Minister Catherine McKenna told reporters on Thursday: "We committed with the Philippines and we're working closely with them." Global concern over plastic pollution has been spurred by shocking images of waste-clogged rivers in Southeast Asia and accounts of dead sea creatures found with kilos of refuse in their stomachs.

For years, China had received the bulk of scrap plastic from around the world, but closed its doors to foreign refuse last year in an effort to clean up its environment. Huge quantities of waste plastic have since been redirected to Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia and - to a lesser degree - the Philippines. In November 2016, Canada amended its regulations on waste disposal to prevent incidents like the one with the Philippines.



**TSAWWASSEN:** The Anna Maersk arrives at Deltaport in Tsawwassen, British Columbia, Canada, to off load 69 containers of garbage that were returned from the Philippines. —AFP

Canadian exporters now need a permit to export hazardous waste and can only obtain it if the other country consents to the import, Jenn Gearey, a spokeswoman for the Canadian environment ministry, said via email. Even so, challenges remain. In May, Malaysian officials criticized Canada after a shipping container filled with contaminated plastic bags from major Canadian grocery chains was shipped to Kuala Lumpur by a private company.

Canada produces more waste per capita than other

countries with comparable levels of economic development, ranging from the United States to Japan, according to a study by the Conference Board of Canada. The majority of it ends up in landfills. Environmental advocates argue that developed countries should stop exporting their trash and figure out how to handle it domestically. "The way forward is to drastically reduce the amount of waste we generate, especially plastic waste," said Vito Buonsante, plastics program manager at Environmental Defense in Toronto. —AFP

## Fighting rages across Afghanistan as peace talks continue

**KABUL:** Taliban suicide bombers killed at least 19 people in an attack on a government office on Saturday night, officials said, in the latest episode of violence in Afghanistan as peace talks continue to end the war. Election workers were registering voters ahead of presidential elections in September at an office in the Marof district of the southern Kandahar province when fighters of the hardline Islamist group launched an attack using four Humvee vehicles, officials said.

Eight election workers were killed, they said. Eleven Afghan security force members were also killed alongside the four suicide bombers, said Tadeen Khan, the police chief of Kandahar. The Taliban, which rejects the election process,

claimed responsibility for the attack. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the group's fighters also killed 57 members of the Afghan security forces in the attack and captured 11 others, but Afghan officials disputed the account.

The interior ministry in a statement said 25 Taliban insurgents were killed in the clash. The Taliban, which controls or contests half the country, more than at any time since being overthrown by the US invasion in 2001, has rejected calls for a ceasefire. Fighting between the Taliban and Afghan forces has intensified even as leaders of the Taliban and US officials hold peace talks in Qatar to end 18 years of war in Afghanistan.

In a separate attack, Taliban fighters killed eight Afghan soldiers and injured eight others at a military checkpoint in Balabulak district in the western province of Farah, a local official said. Mahmood Naemi, the deputy chief of the Farah council, said the clashes ended after Afghan forces launched air strikes. "Many Taliban fighters were killed in the air strike," said Naemi. In the northern province of Takhar, over 600 villagers fled as Taliban fighters seized large areas



**DOVER:** Members of the US Army move the flag-draped transfer case holding the remains of Army Sgt James G Johnston during a dignified transfer at Dover Air Force Base. Johnston died of wounds from small arms fire while engaged in combat operations in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan. —AFP

of the province during heavy fighting in recent days, government officials said.

The pace of talks between the United States and Taliban in Doha has sped up as Afghanistan heads for presidential elections on September 28. Qatar's government, which is mediating the peace

process between the United States and the Taliban, on Sunday said the two sides discussed the withdrawal of foreign troops, preventing militants from using Afghanistan to harm the United States or other countries and a comprehensive ceasefire. —Reuters

## Address by Aiken Tuniyazi at the Human Rights Council

I am Aiken Tuniyazi, an ethnic Uyghur, and now a member of the Standing Committee of CPC Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Regional Committee and vice governor of Xinjiang. Since ancient times, Xinjiang has been an inseparable part of China and a multi-ethnic region where various religions coexist. On its more than 1.66 million square kilometers of land lives a population of 25 million.

The Xinjiang people of all ethnic groups share weal and woe, and achievements of reform and development featuring equality, solidarity, harmony and mutual assistance. They are united as closely as the seeds of a pomegranate. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Over the past seven decades, the successive central governments of China have always put the Xinjiang people of all ethnic groups high in their minds, and pooled support nationwide for Xinjiang's development, hence Xinjiang's socio-economic and human rights undertakings have gained remarkable achievements.

Especially since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, under the strong leadership of CPC Central Committee with President Xi Jinping at its core, Xinjiang has witnessed sustained and steady high-quality economic development, with its GDP for 2018 exceeding 1.2 trillion RMB yuan (nearly US\$200 billion). People's living standards has greatly improved, with urban and rural residents' per capita disposable income reaching respectively nearly 33,000 yuan and 12,000 yuan.

Public-interest projects regarding employment, education, medical services and social security have been moved forward. From 2014 to 2018, a total of 2.3 million people in Xinjiang were lifted out of poverty, with the poverty headcount ratio dropping from 19.4 percent to 6.1 percent. From 2019 to 2020, 817,100

people will shake off poverty.

By 2020, all rural residents living below the current poverty line will be lifted out of poverty, absolute poverty will be eradicated as Xinjiang keeps pace with the rest of China in finishing building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Freedom of religious belief is protected by law in Xinjiang, where there are 24,800 mosques, churches, Buddhist temples, Taoist temples and other religious venues, 29,300 clerical staff, and 10 religious schools such as the Xinjiang Islamic Institute.

Fine traditional cultures of ethnic minorities are protected and developed. The Uyghur Muqam art and Kirgiz epic Manas have been listed as Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Ethnic minority languages are widely used in judicature, administration, education, press and publication, radio and television, the internet and social public affairs. The rights of women, children, the aged and people with disabilities are fully respected and protected by law.

Mr President, despite the progress Xinjiang has made in various undertakings, we are also confronted with severe challenges, as we suffered enormously from ethnic separatism, violent terrorism and religious extremism. From the 1990s to 2016, domestic and overseas separatist, terrorist and extremist forces plotted, organized and conducted thousands of violent terrorist attacks, causing the deaths of a large number of innocent people and immeasurable property damage.

The horrific crimes not only severely undermined the stable and peaceful order and the atmosphere of solidarity and progress in Xinjiang, but also trampled upon the basic human rights of people of all ethnic groups in the region, such as their rights to life, health and development. At that time, religious extremists disseminated sinister preachings like "jihadists for martyrdom who kill pagans can go directly to heaven" and incited religious believers to resist government management, and deny and reject all secular culture.

They preached that religious believers should not watch TV, listen to the radio, nor read newspapers. They forced people not to cry at funerals or laugh at weddings, and even forbade them to sing and dance. Those who did not follow the extreme practices were deemed as "pagans", and "jihad" was instigated against them.

Poisoned by extremist thoughts, some people act-

ed like drug addicts who did things that normal people could not understand. Aierkin Tursun from Kashgar, for example, forced his daughter Bahargul to marry a religious extremist more than 40 years her senior when she was only 15, and said that only by so doing could she go to heaven.

And Tutam Kader from Kuqa County, Aksu Prefecture, believed that the scientific and cultural knowledge taught in public schools did not conform with religious doctrines and forced his children to drop out. Ablimit Abdurehman from Turpan city attempted to go abroad to join IS after watching video clips preaching terrorism and extremism. Mamut Wubuli from Kashgar considered young people going to entertainment places as an evil act and plotted to attack them with his homemade bombs.

Terrorism and extremism are the common enemy of human society and a target that the international community has worked together to combat. The Chinese government opposes all forms of terrorism and extremism. Xinjiang has placed fundamental interests of the people of all ethnic groups first, cracked down on violent terrorist crimes, and emphasized taking preventive counter-terrorism measures and addressing the root causes of extremism.

By setting up vocational education and training centers in accordance with the law, we aim to educate and save those who were influenced by religious extremism and committed minor legal offences. Since many of the trainees influenced by religious extremism are relatively under-educated and less capable of accepting modern knowledge, and generally lack the awareness of the rule of law and skills for employment, the centers provide courses on the country's common language, legal knowledge and vocational skills and integrate deradicalization throughout the entire education and training process.

This will prevent them from becoming victims of terrorism and extremism and to protect the basic human rights of the citizens from infringement. The centers provide free education. They employ teachers, legal workers and senior vocational technicians with solid professional knowledge, as well as full-time doctors for medical services. The dormitories are fully equipped with radio, TV, telephone, air conditioning, bathroom and shower. Sports ground and library have been built.

Various extra-curricular activities, such as contests on ethnic dancing, singing and sports, are organized to

help the trainees regain aspiration for a better life. The trainees' personal dignity and freedom are fully protected. The centers implement boarding management, under which the trainees can go home on a regular basis and ask for leave whenever needed. The trainees' right to use their own spoken and written language in daily life is fully ensured. The customs and habits of trainees of different ethnic backgrounds are also given full respect and protection.

After more than two years of practice, vocational education and training in Xinjiang has scored remarkable achievements. The trainees have gradually broken away from the spiritual control of terrorism and extremism and got to know what is legal and what is not. They have gained access to modern knowledge and information, learned basic practical skills and enhanced their employability. Now, many trainees have graduated from the centers, got stable jobs, and lived a happy life with better quality.

Mr President, preventive counter-terrorism and deradicalization are a global challenge. While drawing upon counter-terrorism and deradicalization experience and practices of the international community, Xinjiang has taken its local conditions into consideration and carried out vocational education and training. It is an effective measure and a useful tryout that aims to eradicate terrorism and extremism from the root and to protect the basic human rights of the vast majority of the people.

Meanwhile, we have drawn on common practices of the international community and applied modern scientific products and big data technology to effectively prevent and combat crimes. These measures are not directed against any specific region, ethnic group or religion. In the past three years, not a single case of violent terrorist attack occurred in Xinjiang.

The infiltration and spreading of extremism has been effectively contained, and the number of criminal cases and public security cases dropped significantly. Public security has notably improved. People have a stronger sense of happiness, fulfillment, and particularly, security. In 2018, the number of tourists to Xinjiang exceeded 150 million, up by more than 40 percent, and from January to May this year the figure rose by nearly 53 percent year on year. The people of all ethnic groups are enjoying the dividend of social stability.

We take seriously the attention of the international community. We have invited a number of delegations of foreign diplomats, officials, international

organizations, religious groups and the media to make field visits to Xinjiang. Not long ago, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UN Counter-Terrorism Office and more than 20 representatives to Geneva from different countries also visited Xinjiang. Many people of insight said that the counter-terrorism and counter-extremism measures taken by Xinjiang are successful.

For some time, certain countries, NGOs and media outlets ignore Xinjiang's social stability and human rights progress, and maliciously criticize, smear and slander the counter-terrorism and deradicalization measures that Xinjiang has taken in accordance with the law. Some of them even invent stories and fabricate fake news.

When Xinjiang suffered from rampant violent terrorism and extremism, they were indifferent; yet when Xinjiang people begin to live a harmonious and peaceful life, they put on a hypocritical face and jump out to make wanton remarks and inflammatory statements. We hope they can look back at their past mistakes. The world today is not peaceful, terrorism and extremism are still lurking to wreak havoc.

Terrorist attacks that took place in Sri Lanka and other countries speak volumes about the fact that rigorous prevention measures are necessary and consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN in terms of combating terrorism and safeguarding basic human rights. Countering terrorism and extremism is an on-going process of exploration and practice.

We are ready to communicate and discuss with all parties on the basis of equality and mutual respect. "You do not know whether the shoes fit until you put them on." The best-qualified to speak on Xinjiang are the Xinjiang people of all ethnic groups. Unity and stability are blessings, while separation and turmoil are disasters. To protect our citizens' basic human rights and ensure Xinjiang's social stability and long-term security is the bounden duty of our Party and government.

We will make consistent efforts to promote sustained development of Xinjiang's human rights undertakings and create an even brighter future for people of all ethnic groups in our region. In conclusion, I sincerely invite you Mr. President, Madam High Commissioner as well as representatives of the HRC members and observers to make field visits to Xinjiang, and see for yourselves a beautiful, true and hospitable Xinjiang. Thank you!

## Facebook's page of Australian missing in North Korea mysteriously reappears

**SYDNEY:** The Facebook page of an Australian man missing in North Korea reappeared then disappeared again on Saturday before Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia is still trying to find out what has happened to him. Alek Sigley, one of only a handful of Western students in the secretive country, has been missing for several days. His family had taken down his social media accounts to prevent unnecessary speculation online.



Alek Sigley

Sigley's Facebook page reappeared overnight, but it is not known who reinstated it, or why. It had disappeared again on Saturday by 2 pm Sydney time and remained down on Sunday morning. Sigley's Twitter account has remained online and members of the public have posted messages of support there. The missing man's last posts on his Twitter and Facebook profiles are from Monday, June 24, and his family has not heard from him since Tuesday.

Speaking from the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, Prime Minister Morrison said he had spoken to Sigley's family and said Australia was still trying to find out what happened to him. "I will just be measured in what I say because that is all about using the best opportunities we have right now, to inform ourselves about where Alek is and what his safety is and where he is being held, in what conditions," he told reporters on Saturday evening. Morrison said numerous world leaders had offered help to find Sigley and bring him home. When asked if US President Donald Trump's visit to the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) presented an opportunity for the Americans to make representations, Mr Morrison said he would not allow the issue to be taken up with other agendas.

"We're going to work with everybody to secure Alek's safety and the best way we can do that is doing it quietly, effectively, working with our partners," he said. "This is, not allowing this to be taken up into other agendas, it's not about that, it's simply for me, about Alek's safety. Sorry." The 29-year-old Australian moved to North Korea to study for a master's degree in Korean literature at Kim Il-sung University in Pyongyang, and also ran a small tour company specialising in educational trips to North Korea.

Sigley has been an unusually active social media user for someone living in North Korea, updating his social media accounts with photos and blog posts about benign subjects such as food and fashion. The treatment of foreign citizens by the secretive North has long been a contentious issue. American student Otto Warmbier died in 2017 after being detained in North Korea for stealing a propaganda poster from his hotel room. —Reuters

## Analysis

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ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
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## US electoral map bias may worsen

The US Supreme Court's ruling that federal judges have no power to police partisan gerrymandering - the practice of manipulating electoral district boundaries for political gain - likely will embolden politicians to pursue more extreme efforts free from the fear of judicial interference, experts said. "We'll see more states doing more bad stuff," said University of California at Irvine election law expert Rick Hasen. The court's 5-4 decision on Thursday, powered by its conservative majority in a ruling authored by Chief Justice John Roberts, to close federal courthouse doors to partisan gerrymandering legal challenges shifts the focus of countering electoral map bias to the states.

Election reformers now face a limited menu of options, all of which face potential obstacles: voter ballot initiatives, lawsuits filed in state courts and congressional legislation. "The hope from the reform groups was that you would just be able to wave a wand over the entire country and fix all the gerrymanders," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida expert on US elections. "Roberts said the battle that was in the states will stay in the states."

The geographical boundaries of US House of Representatives and state legislative districts across the country are redrawn to reflect population changes measured by the census conducted by the federal government each decade. The next census is in 2020. In most states, redistricting is done by the party in power. Gerrymandering is carried out by configuring districts in a way that packs as many like-minded voters as possible into a small number of districts and distributing the rest in other districts too thinly to form a majority.

President Donald Trump's fellow Republicans have been the primary beneficiaries of gerrymandering since the last round of redistricting following the 2010 census, though Democrats have engaged in the practice as well. Hasen said he expects more Democratic-led legislatures to engage in the practice in light of the ruling. "I think there will be a lot of pressure on Democrats who may have held back to do so, because this has national implications," Hasen said.

The court ruled in cases from North Carolina and Maryland. In addition to ensuring that voters from those states will cast ballots in the 2020 election under the same electoral maps that were challenged, Thursday's ruling also hurts plaintiffs in Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin who have sued in federal courts, saying their voting power had been curtailed by gerrymandering. In the longer run, countering gerrymandering will fall back to state legislatures, courts and voters themselves. Outside groups are drawing battle lines.

"We'll continue to fight against map manipulation using every tool that is at our disposal," said former US Attorney General Eric Holder, whose National Democratic Redistricting Committee is backed by former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican. "But even without no federal guardrail on gerrymandering, this fight is far from over."

The National Republican Redistricting Trust said it would oppose any effort to take away legislators' authority. "This is not the end of our fight," former Wisconsin Republican Governor Scott Walker, the group's fundraising chairman, said in a statement. "The battle to protect our country from Barack Obama and Eric Holder's plan to hijack our elections now moves to the states."

In recent years, voters in several states, including Colorado and Michigan, have approved ballot measures creating independent commissions to handle the post-census process of redrawing electoral districts. About a quarter of US states have given a commission either full or partial authority in redistricting. Efforts already are underway in several states, including Arkansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma, to launch similar ballot initiatives next year.

Election law expert Nicholas Stephanopoulos, a University of Chicago law professor, said only about half of states allow ballot initiatives. Reformers also could file challenges to gerrymandered maps in state courts, whose authority under state law is unaffected by the Supreme Court's decision.

Next month, a North Carolina court will hold a trial in a case brought by advocates who claim Republican-drawn districts violate the state constitution, a dispute likely to be resolved by the state's top court. Nine of the state's 13 US House seats are currently held by Republicans, even though Democrats lost the total statewide vote last year by only 2 percent. A new election has been called for one seat because of election fraud.

Legal experts have said the state's high court, which has six Democrats among its seven justices, could follow in the footsteps of Pennsylvania's Supreme Court, which in 2018 threw out a Republican-created map and commissioned an independent expert to draw new lines. Democrats there won half of the state's 18 House seats in 2018, after holding only five seats under the old map. — Reuters

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North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump cross south of the Military Demarcation Line that divides North and South Korea, after Trump briefly stepped over to the northern side, in the Joint Security Area (JSA) of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) yesterday. — AFP

## Trump-Kim III: Publicity stunt or leap for peace?

Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un's meeting in the Korean Demilitarized Zone produced a barrage of headlines and images, but left analysts questioning whether it was a small step for publicity or a giant leap for peace. The impromptu encounter saw Trump briefly crossing over the demarcation line - becoming the first sitting US president to step into Pyongyang's territory. It came months after their second summit in Hanoi broke down over what the nuclear-armed North would be willing to give up in exchange for sanctions relief.

After around an hour of talks in Panmunjom - the "truce village" in the DMZ that has divided the peninsula since the two sides and their allies fought each other to a stalemate in 1953 - Trump emerged to say the two would begin working-level talks in the next few weeks. He also invited the North's leader to Washington "at the right time", he added. It was a more substantive outcome than many had expected after Trump issued his Twitter invitation to Kim and said the meeting could be as short as two minutes to simply "say hello".

But analysts questioned whether it would be enough to create sustainable progress in a process that has already been running for years and has regularly become bogged down. Vipin Narang, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the "reality show theatrics" of Panmunjom were worth it if they led to effective working-

level talks. "If not, then we will keep tuning into this same show for the next 15 months," he added.

While the Trump administration is adamant it wants to see North Korea give up its nuclear arsenal, Pyongyang has never publicly declared it is willing to do so, referring instead to the wider and more ambiguous "denuclearization of the Korean peninsula". The North is seeking relief from wide-ranging sanctions imposed on it over its weapons programs, and has offered to close part of its Yongbyon nuclear centre, but specialists say it has other facilities producing material for weapons. The Panmunjom meeting gave both leaders "a good reason to seek dialogue again", said Hong Min, a senior researcher at the South's state-run Korea Institute for National Unification.

### 'Pushes and nudges'

But Mintaro Oba, a former State Department official in the Obama administration, called it a "temporary burst of momentum". "We are engaged in a sort of 'defibrillator diplomacy' with North Korea: keeping the process alive through an occasional injection of energy, but never treating the underlying disease," Oba tweeted. How much progress the talks will make is open to question, experts say.

Since the Hanoi summit collapse, Pyongyang has accused Washington of acting in "bad faith" and given it

until the end of the year to change its approach, and last month fired short-range missiles for the first time since November 2017. In recent months Pyongyang has also slammed Trump's top aides - National Security Adviser John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo - and demanded their removal from talks. "That could create problems," said Go Myong-hyun, an analyst at the Asan Institute of Policy Studies.

For both participants, though, the meeting had its uses. With a presidential election in the US next year, Trump's dramatic steps into North Korea will be a "useful tool" on the campaign trail, said Koo Kab-woo, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul. For its part, the North has long wanted to be treated as an equal to the US and sought to have Bill Clinton visit Pyongyang before his term expired. It will welcome yesterday's symbolism, said former CIA analyst Soo Kim.

"Kim didn't have to lift a finger to get Trump to cross the DMZ," she told AFP, even though there had been "no progress on denuclearization", and the North was continuing to advance its nuclear capabilities, test missiles and evade sanctions. The short-notice meeting fits right into Pyongyang's playbook, she said, sending a message to the North that US policy was "quite porous" and suggesting that "with subsequent pushes and nudges, Kim will get his own way". — AFP

## Power cuts add to Zimbabwe's mounting woes

Zimbabwe's worsening electricity shortages mean power is often only available for a few hours in the middle of the night - forcing furniture maker Richard Benhura to start work at 11:00 pm. It is just one aspect of the country's dire economic difficulties as official inflation nears 100 percent and supplies of daily essentials such as bread and petrol regularly run short. "If you want to work, you have to be here overnight and start when the electricity comes on until it goes off around 4:00 am," Benhura, 32, told AFP as he made some wooden backrests for chairs.

At the open-air Glen View furniture market in Harare, Benhura welds steel frames for chairs and grinds off rough edges in the darkness, and then returns to do his manual woodwork in the daylight. Zimbabwe - where the economy has recently lurched into a fresh crisis - introduced rotational power cuts of up to 19 hours a day earlier this year, forcing many to do their ironing or cooking in the dead of night. For Egenia Chiwashira, a resident of the poor Harare suburb of Mbare, the outages are a grim burden. The mother of three in her 40s says she can barely afford to feed her family, let alone pay for a generator.

### 'We are in darkness'

"To cook porridge for my children needs electricity, also for me to prepare myself something to eat," Chiwashira said, while stoking a fire she had made outside her house to prepare supper. "We are always in darkness. It's not easy. Life in the city is tough without electricity. You have to buy firewood unlike in rural areas where you can fetch it in forests. "I can't afford to buy both wood and candles, so my children cannot do their schoolwork in the evening."

Zimbabwe last month introduced rolling electricity power cuts known as "load-shedding" due to low water levels at the Kariba hydro-power station, as well as the country's crumbling power infrastructure and lack of funds to pay for energy imports. The ZESA power utility said cuts would be imposed between 5:00 am and 10:00 am and 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm, but they often last longer. "Last week we had no electricity on Friday, Saturday and Sunday," Chiwashira said. "We only got supplies back on Monday afternoon."

Energy minister Fortune Chasi has pledged the outages would be reduced,



A young Zimbabwean boy does his homework under candlelight in Harare on June 26, 2019. — AFP

and urged consumers to pay their bills to enable ZESA to buy more power from neighboring countries. "We will be turning the corner pretty soon," Chasi told a post-Cabinet briefing this week, adding that ZESA had just paid a \$20-million debt to neighboring South Africa. South Africa's state-owned energy company Eskom on Friday denied the money had been paid.

### No post-Mugabe uplift

One of few to see an improvement in business is Simba Vuremu, a stationery shop owner who has added solar lighting units to his stock. "They are selling and selling fast," he said. After Robert Mugabe was ousted from power in 2017, many Zimbabweans hoped that their country's long economic decline would be reversed under his successor President Emmerson Mnangagwa. Mnangagwa promised to end the country's international isolation, attract investors and create growth that could fund the country's shattered public services.

But the economy has declined further, with shop prices rocketing at the fastest rate since hyperinflation wiped out savings and pensions ten years ago. This week, Zimbabwe in theory ended the use of US dollars and other foreign currencies that have been the official legal tender since the Zimbabwe dollar was rendered worthless in 2009. The government's surprise decision fuelled further confusion and uncertainty.

For Caution Kasi, 45, another furniture-maker in Glen View, the power cuts have only added to his worries. "We have a small petrol-powered generator which cannot run for a long time," he said. "The price of food and other things like school fees are going up and we are not getting much money because we can't deliver our goods. We have got a problem." — AFP

## After decades, Japan courts controversy resuming whaling

Japanese fishermen set sail today to hunt whales commercially for the first time in more than three decades after Tokyo's controversial withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) triggered outrage from environmental groups. The planned hunts, while small and far from internationally protected waters, have also sparked anger in countries where whaling is considered outdated and harmful. But in Japan, whaling communities hailed the return of the practice, with Tokyo defending it as a tradition that should not be subject to outside interference.

For years, the issue of whaling was a diplomatic headache for Japan, which came under attack for exploiting an IWC loophole to hunt whales for "scientific" purposes. Critics accused Japan of effectively carrying out stealth whaling, saying the hunts had no scientific value, while Tokyo continued to push for permission to resume commercial whaling outright.

But last year it announced it would simply withdraw from the IWC and no longer comply with its decades-old ban on commercial killing of the ocean giants. The decision comes into effect from July 1, when a flotilla of ships that once carried out whaling for "scientific research" will set sail from the Shimonoseki port in western Japan. Elsewhere, five small whaling boats from across the country will gather in Kushiro port in northern Japan and start hunting minke for about a week in a symbolic event celebrating the resumption of the practice.

### 'Heart full of hope'

"We are very excited at the resumption of commercial whaling," Yoshifumi Kai, head of the Japan Small-Type Whaling Association, told AFP ahead of the departure. "My heart is full of hope," added Kai, who belongs to a fisheries cooperative in Taiji in Wakayama prefecture, an area known for both whale and dolphin hunting. Japan's decision in December to withdraw from the IWC sparked a firestorm of criticism from environmentalists and anti-whaling countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

It came after years of failed attempts by Tokyo to convince the IWC to allow it to resume commercial whaling, arguing that stocks of certain species were now sufficient to support renewed hunting. The decision means Japan will end its most provocative expeditions, in protected Antarctic waters, and instead concentrate on commercial whaling of minke and other

whales off its shores. Japan has hunted whales for centuries and the meat was a key source of protein in the immediate post-World War II years when the country was desperately poor. But consumption has declined significantly in recent decades, with much of the population saying they rarely or never eat whale meat, and activists have pressed Japan to ditch the practice.

### 'Path towards extinction'

Animal conservation groups from across the world sent a letter to the Group of 20 leaders meeting in the Japanese city of Osaka over the weekend urging them to call for an "immediate end to all commercial whaling". "Japan leaving the IWC and defying international law to pursue its commercial whaling ambitions is renegade, retrograde and myopic," said Kitty Block, president of Humane Society International based in the UK. "Tokyo is 'undermining its reputation for an industry whose days are so clearly numbered, to produce a product for which demand has plummeted'," she said.

But some conservationists and experts say Japan's whaling industry is already on its last legs for economic reasons, with consumption shrinking steadily and no sign of a market recovery. "What we are seeing is the beginning of the end of Japanese whaling," said Patrick Ramage, director of marine conservation at the International Fund for Animal Welfare. "Japan is quitting high-seas whaling... not yet a full stop, but that is a huge step towards the end of killing whales for their meat and other products," he said, adding he does not believe coastal whaling will survive given dwindling subsidies and consumer demand. Masayuki Komatsu, a former top Japanese negotiator at the IWC between 1991 and 2004, said Tokyo would return to the organization or risk seeing whaling die out altogether. — AFP



This picture taken on Jan 18, 2019 shows sushi using whale meat being prepared at a whale meat restaurant in Tokyo. — AFP

## Business

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# Costa Coffee, Alghanim Industries expand Middle East partnership

## Alghanim Industries will open Costa Coffee branches in Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar

LONDON: Costa Coffee, the UK-based coffee shop company with nearly 4,000 locations in more than 32 global markets, and Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately-owned companies in the Gulf region, has yesterday announced an expansion of their successful partnership. Moving forward, Alghanim Industries will have development rights to Costa Coffee not just in Kuwait but also in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar, making Alghanim the largest franchisee by territory.

The Costa Coffee-Alghanim partnership has flourished since its 2013 formation, growing to more than 75 stores today. 35 of these shops opened in less than a year, including in top-tier locations such as Al-Hamra Tower and Kuwait International Airport.

The growth is driven by the companies' shared commitments to delivering outstanding handcrafted coffee, credible healthy menu choices and exceptional customer service. Costa Coffee and Alghanim Industries have revamped the Kuwait menu to reflect local tastes and preferences, including local specialties, such as the sweet and rich Spanish Latte, in addition to the cardamom-infused Turkish latte, a Middle-Eastern twist on a classic drink.

Together both companies have recently introduced a number of sustainability initiatives, switching from plastic to paper straws and offering discounts to those customers who bring a reusable cup into store. In addition, they established a barista training center, arranged pastry collaborations with celebrity chefs, upgraded store design and interiors, and opened a concept store at Al-Hamra Tower, where customers can enjoy specialty coffees and an expanded food offer. Put together, these forward-looking strategies will power Costa-Alghanim's expansion efforts in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar.

"Three traits are critical to success in the food and beverage sector," said Kutayba Y Alghanim, Executive Chairman, Alghanim Industries. "You must have a patient, long-term outlook, you must act decisively when opportunity arises, and above all, you must put the customer at the heart of your business. We share these values with Costa Coffee, a world-class brand, which will grow even stronger following its acquisition by Coca-Cola. These shared values are the foundation of our work together, and the reason we look forward to an enduring, prosperous partnership."

"Coffee is a Middle Eastern creation. As far as histo-



Kutayba Y Alghanim (left), Dominic Paul (center) and Omar K Alghanim

rians can tell, drinking coffee traces back to the 15th century in our region," said Omar K Alghanim, Group CEO, Alghanim Industries. "It comes as no surprise that most people in this region have a deep appreciation for good coffee. And that's why we're thrilled to grow with Costa Coffee, and to build on our success in Kuwait. We're ready to hit the ground running in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar, bringing world-class hand crafted coffee

to some of the most sophisticated consumers in the world."

"Today marks another exciting new chapter for Costa Coffee in the Middle East", said Dominic Paul, CEO of Costa Coffee. "Our vision is to inspire the world to love great coffee and in Alghanim Industries we have an innovative and exciting partner who will help us unlock the next phase of growth in the Middle East, bringing

further investment and job creation across a number of countries where demand for Costa Coffee is growing."

Alongside Costa Coffee, Alghanim Industries has forged successful partnerships with American quick-service restaurant brands Wendy's (2015) and Slim Chickens (2017). Alghanim Industries expects to open its first store outside Kuwait in Saudi Arabia by the fourth quarter of 2019.

## EU trade deal means early Christmas for Vietnamese card exporter

HUNG YEN, Vietnam: With the signing of the EU-Vietnam free trade agreement yesterday, Christmas has come early for holiday card-maker Dang Trong Trung who says business could double with duty-free access to European markets.

The long-awaited deal inked in Hanoi on Sunday will eventually slash duties on 99 percent of Europe's imports from Vietnam once the agreement is ratified. That's likely to mean big business for Trung's Anh Duc packaging company in Hung Yen province near Hanoi. His firm makes greeting cards, gift tags and paper and plastic bags, with \$2 million in goods-about 60 percent of all their exports-destined for European markets.

"I hope in the next few years that export quantity and value will double," Trung told AFP at his warehouse where a fresh batch of German Christmas cards featuring reindeer and snow-frosted pine trees were being printed. Vietnam's biggest exports today are textiles, shoes, and electronics such as smartphones and computer parts.

But with duties on almost all goods to Europe set to be slashed several years after the agreement comes into force, industries like Trung's could secure a bigger share of exports.

The company has already started using more environmentally-friendly materials, knowing that plastics are becoming less desirable among European consumers. And they hope access to

high-quality raw materials from Europe will also improve now that tariffs have been slashed. But the deal could also usher in greater competition from European card makers who may choose to transplant their business to Vietnam, a cheap-labor hub with a reputation for highly-skilled workers. "When the (deal) comes into effect, there will be competition but we don't worry much because we have 15 years of export experience," said company director Vu Dinh Duc.

Vietnam's booming economy has largely been propelled by free trade, with the majority of exports going to Europe, China and the US. But observers say a long-simmering trade row between the United States and China has sharp-

ened Hanoi's desire to tie up a trade deal with Europe.

Though Vietnam has seen some short-term wins from the trade spat as companies shift business from China in order to dodge tariffs, analysts say no one wins if China and the US experience slowing growth-leaving their consumers with less money to buy Made-in-Vietnam goods.

Some workers at Anh Duc paper factory are hoping the EU free trade deal could help to soften that potential blow. "We hope to have more clients and more contracts from Europe so we can have more income," printer Ha Anh Binh said. "Our lives will improve". — AFP



HUNG YEN: A worker makes Christmas cards in a factory in Hung Yen. The European Union and Vietnam yesterday signed a long-awaited free trade deal that will slash duties on almost all goods as fears grow over mounting global protectionism. — AFP

## China warns of long road ahead for deal with US

BEIJING/OSAKA: China and the United States will face a long road before they can reach a deal to end their bitter trade war, with more fights ahead likely, Chinese state media said after the two countries' presidents held ice-breaking talks in Japan. The world's two largest economies are in the midst of a bitter trade war, which has seen them level increasingly severe tariffs on each other's imports. In a sign of significant progress in relations on Saturday, Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump, on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Osaka, agreed to a ceasefire and a return to talks.

However, the official China Daily, an English-language daily often used by Beijing to put its message out to the rest of the world, warned while there was now a greater likelihood of reaching an agreement, there's no guarantee there would be one. "Even though Washington agreed to postpone levying additional tariffs on Chinese goods to make way for negotiations, and Trump even hinted at putting off decisions on Huawei until the end of negotiations, things are still very much up in the air," it said in an editorial late Saturday.

"Agreement on 90 percent of the issues has proved not to be enough, and

with the remaining 10 percent where their fundamental differences reside, it is not going to be easy to reach a 100-percent consensus, since at this point, they remain widely apart even on the conceptual level."

Trump also offered an olive branch to Xi on Huawei Technologies Co, the world's biggest telecom network equipment maker. The Trump administration has said the Chinese firm poses a national security risk given its close ties to China's government, and has lobbied US allies to keep Huawei out of next-generation 5G telecommunications infrastructure. The Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi, in a lengthy statement about G20 released by the Foreign Ministry following the delegation's return to Beijing, said the Xi-Trump meeting had sent a "positive signal" to the world.

Though problems between the two countries remain, China is confident as long as they both follow the consensus reached by their leaders they can resolve their problems on the basis of mutual respect, Wang said in the statement released late Saturday. Trump's comments on Huawei, made at a more than hour-long news conference in Osaka following his sit-down with Xi, generated only a cautious welcome from China. The word "Huawei" was not mentioned at all in the top diplomat's appraisal of G20. Wang Xiaolong, the Foreign Ministry's special envoy of G20 affairs and head of the ministry's Department of International Economic Affairs, said if the United States does what it says on Huawei then China would of course welcome it.—Reuters

Business

# Greek road-trip: Rosemary and thyme against Greece's economic torpor

## 23% of Greek population still lives in poverty

**DERVENI, Greece:** High on the cliff-tops overlooking the Gulf of Corinth, Areti Zaharopoulou has managed to scrape together a modest living for the past six years growing herbs such as sage, thyme and rosemary. The mother-of-four was an accountant in Athens when she suddenly found herself out of a job in 2013 at the age of 57, when the company she had been working for decided to downsize.

So, like thousands of other Greeks, and with 10 years still to go before she would be entitled to draw a pension, Zaharopoulou felt compelled to roll up her sleeves and re-train in agriculture.

She took a course in botany, quit Athens in 2014 and found an abandoned field in Pyrgos on the Peloponnese peninsula, which she leased to grow aromatic herbs.

"I'm a typical example of the crisis," she says. While she says she is fulfilling a long-cherished dream, she only makes just enough to get by—saving on distribution costs by doing it herself. But Zaharopoulou grits her teeth and tries to keep smiling. "Like everyone who works the fields, I hope I'll be able to

survive this difficult period," she says. Nevertheless, with one week to go before Greek elections, there is no doubt in her mind as to who is to blame for the economic torpor still gripping the country, years after the financial crisis that nearly saw Greece crash out of the eurozone—the political classes.

**'It's our fault'**

Yannis Nissotakis, a former banker who now owns a small cafe-bar in the coastal village of Derveni, agrees. "There's no hope in Greece and it's our fault," he says. With nepotism still deeply ingrained in the Greek political system, "nothing is going to change," he complains.

Nissotakis used to work for Societe Generale in Athens before the French bank shut up shop in Greece at the start of the crisis in 2010. For the next two years, he worked in a Greek bank, but then decided to throw in the towel and come to Derveni to open his cafe-bar. "Nobody wants to work in the fields. Lemons from Argentina cost only a euro per kilogram. That destroys the competition," he says. Even though the Greek economy has

shown a timid recovery since 2017, 23 percent of the population still lives in poverty. "What has happened in Europe over several decades has been brutal in Greece in recent years—private debt has increased and part-time work has risen to 27 percent from five percent before the crisis," said Ioannis Kouzis, professor of Social Policy at the University Pantheon of Athens.

"The closure of 270,000 small and medium-sized enterprises after 2010, the drastic restriction of the liberal professions and the reduction of income have plunged the country into a stagnation that creates new classes of poor," he said.

Public disaffection has become widespread. And in local elections at the beginning of June, nearly 60 percent of voters stayed away from the polls in some regions. For Kouzis, Greece is "caught in a Catch-22," because its massive debt mountain leaves no room for manoeuvre for policymakers to draw up "a new model of production."

"This leads to a climate of resignation and fatalism in society, which could, in turn, lead to a new crisis," the academic warns. — AFP



Areti Zaharopoulou, a former accountant, was forced to re-train when she found herself out of a job. — AFP

**NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT**

## Currencies trade sideways before Trump-Xi meeting

**KUWAIT:** Most currencies including the US dollar traded sideways last week as investors awaited a crucial meeting between the leaders of the United States and China at the Group of 20 summit over the weekend for any signs of progress to end their heated trade war. The drawn out trade war has slowed global growth and pushed many central banks toward cutting interest rates to support their economies. Any sign the trade war will come to an end would be a significant boost for the global economic outlook.

US President Donald Trump said that a trade deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping was possible, but he is prepared to impose US tariffs on virtually all remaining Chinese imports if the two countries continue to disagree. Trump also raised the possibility that he may impose a lower 10 percent duty on a \$300 billion list of Chinese imports, instead of the proposed 25 percent rate. Trump said in an interview "It's possible that we'll make a deal but I'm also very happy where we are now. I would do additional tariffs, very substantial additional tariffs, if we don't make a deal." Fitch Ratings forecast that imposing a 25 percent tariff on the \$300 billion in Chinese goods would chop 0.4 percent from world economic output.

Trump said China knows what the United States needs for a trade deal, and pushed for China to return to the negotiating table with the same concessions they had made before talks abruptly ended in May. The mood improved the previous day after the South China Morning Post said Washington and Beijing were laying out a truce that would halt the next round of tariffs on an additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports.

The reports turned out to be reliable after the United States and China agreed on Saturday to restart trade talks. In a lengthy statement on the talks, China's foreign ministry said the United States would not add new tariffs on Chinese exports, and added that negotiators of both countries would discuss specific issues, but gave no details. In concession from the US however, Trump also said he would allow US companies to continue to sell to the Chinese tech giant Huawei for the time being. Trump commented on his 80-minute meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping saying it was "excellent" and that the two sides were "back on track" to finding to a favorable resolution.

**Jerome Powell speaks**

Speaking last week Jerome made some comments in line with the Fed's latest release while supporting further easing. Powell said the economy has performed reasonably well so far this year. Solid fundamentals are supporting continued growth and strong job creation, keeping the unemployment rate near historic lows. Although inflation has been running somewhat below the Fed's symmetric 2 percent objective, he expects it to pick up. However, the risks to the Fed's favorable outlook appear to have grown. Trade tensions have promoted greater uncertainties while incoming data raised renewed concerns about the strength of the global economy. These concerns may have contributed to a drop in business confidence in recent surveys and may be starting to show through incoming data. It is for those reasons many FOMC participants judge that the case for somewhat more accommodative policy has strengthened.

**Consumer confidence falls**

As mentioned by Powell in his speech, US consumer confidence tumbled to a 21-month low in June. The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index dropped 9.8 points to a reading of 121.5 this month, the lowest since September 2017. The fall was driven by a less favorable assessment of current business and labor market conditions combined with dimmer short-term outlooks. The escalation in trade and tariff tensions earlier this month appears to have shaken consumers' confidence. Although the Index remains at a high level, continued uncertainty could result in further volatility in the Index and, at some point, could even begin to diminish consumers' confidence in the expansion.

The economy's prospects were further dimmed by other data showing sales of new single-family homes unexpectedly falling for a second straight month in May. New home sales dropped 7.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 626,000 units in May, the lowest in five months, according to a separate report from the Commerce Department. The lack of new purchases reflects the reduced confidence of consumers.

**US GDP**

The US economy accelerated at a solid pace in the first quarter of 2019. GDP increased at a 3.1 percent annualized



rate the Commerce Department said in its final reading of first-quarter GDP. Excluding trade, inventories and government spending however, the economy only grew 1.3 percent in the first quarter. That was the slowest rise in this measure of domestic demand since the second quarter of 2013. Growth in consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, was also revised down to 0.9 percent from 1.3 percent, the weakest in a year. The reading marks 10 years of economic expansion in July, the longest on record. However, momentum appears to be slowing, with manufacturing struggling, the trade deficit widening again and the housing sector still stuck in a soft patch.

**Eurozone inflation flat**

The President of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, made it pretty clear in the last ECB meeting that if inflation fails to converge sustainably towards the ECB's target, then "additional stimulus will be required." Annual euro zone inflation for June remained flat and in line with expectations at 1.2 percent, having stood above 2 percent late last year. The more significant core figure however, which removes volatile elements such as energy and food, actually picked up 1.1 percent from 0.8 percent last month giving hope for a pickup as the ECB expected. It is yet unclear what the ECB's response will be should they decide to ease further. With rates already in negative territory, economist expectations are for a return of quantitative easing.

**Eurozone sentiment lower**

Eurozone economic sentiment sank to its lowest point in nearly three years in June, with industry in particular hit by global trade tensions, European Commission data showed. The Commission said its main indicator of economic confidence dropped to 103.3 points in June from 105.2 a month earlier. June's drop was bigger than expected and caps a half-year stretch in which sentiment has fallen every month except May. The Commission's survey showed selling price expectations were falling in industry and retail trade. The largest fall in confidence

was recorded in Europe's powerhouse Germany marking a point of concern.

**British pound pressured**

While the British pound was also steady last week, it still failed to derive much support from the Bank of England's relatively hawkish policy stance. At their latest policy meeting, the BoE continued to signal that they plan to deliver gradual and limited rate hikes in the coming years assuming a smooth Brexit outcome. A "smooth" outcome is being threatened by Eurosceptic Boris Johnson, who seems to be the Conservative Party's favorite to replace Theresa May. Johnson recently reiterated his stance, telling the BBC he was "serious" about leading Britain out of the EU on the October 31 deadline without a deal if the bloc refused his demands to negotiate a new exit agreement. With the rising probabilities of a "No Deal" Brexit and slowing global growth this year, it is clear markets do not believe that the BoE will be able to follow through with their hikes.

**BoJ signals easing**

Deputy Bank of Japan Governor Masazumi Wakatabe surprised markets when he stated the BoJ may pre-emptively ease monetary policy if the board can agree it will be hard to achieve their 2.0 percent target. He believes that the BoJ must ease immediately without hesitation if the economy loses momentum to the hit the BoJ's price goal. He said the US-China trade dispute, if prolonged, would hit the global economy not just through higher tar-

iffs, but by discouraging firms from investing and hurting market sentiment. That may lead to a "significant risk" that they may have to change their outlook that the economy will continue the moderate expansion trend. The BoJ is currently expecting a pick-up in growth during the second half of this year.

**Oil rebounds, gold steady**

Oil prices rose more than 9 percent last week supported by various events. First, industry data showed US crude stockpiles fell more than expected. Second, Asia's crude oil imports from Iran fell in May to the lowest in five years after China and India wound down purchases amid US sanctions, while Japan and South Korea halted imports. Finally, on the supply side, markets were worried a potential US-Iran conflict could affect oil supply from the middle east while OPEC members are expected to renew their output curb this week. The aforementioned events show an incoming increase demand for oil with the potential of limited supply driving prices higher. Brent Crude closed out the week at \$64.74.

Gold prices managed to maintain their levels at six-year highs, as dovish signals from major central banks and heightened tensions between the United States and Iran boosted demand for the safe-haven metal. The ongoing trade war with China leading to a global slowdown is also a major contributing factor to gold's rise this month. Gold closed out the week at \$1409.

**Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30315**

The USDKWD opened at 0.30315 yesterday morning.



## EXCHANGE RATES

**Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.**

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.000
Euro	348.990
Sterling Pound	389.580
Canadian dollar	234.210
Turkish lira	53.810
Swiss Franc	314.860
US Dollar Buying	296.650
ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.818
Indian Rupees	4.419
Pakistani Rupees	1.945
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.718
Nepali Rupees	2.750
Singapore Dollar	226.530
Hongkong Dollar	38.910
Bangladesh Taka	3.584
Philippine Peso	5.942
Thai Baht	9.930
Malaysian ringgit	77.779
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.121
Qatari Riyal	83.551
Omani Riyal	790.123
Bahraini Dinar	807.760
UAE Dirham	82.823
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	18.219
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.221
Tunisian Dinar	108.960
Jordanian Dinar	429.530
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	0.203
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.513

**Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd**

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.640
Canadian Dollar	231.025
Sterling Pound	386.455
Euro	346.375
Swiss Frank	298.070
Bahraini Dinar	807.490
UAE Dirhams	83.070
Qatari Riyals	84.310
Saudi Riyals	81.865
Jordanian Dinar	429.550
Egyptian Pound	18.210
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.719
Indian Rupees	4.379
Pakistani Rupees	1.933
Bangladesh Taka	3.596
Philippines Peso	5.904
Cyprus pound	18.065
Japanese Yen	3.825
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.739
Malaysian Ringgit	74.225
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.515
Thai Bhat	10.825
Turkish Lira	52.785
Singapore dollars	222.971

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.378630	0.392530
Czech Korune	0.005595	0.014895
Danish Krone	0.042305	0.047305
Euro	0.339369	0.353069
Georgian Lari	0.131870	0.131870
Hungarian	0.001146	0.001336
Norwegian Krone	0.031673	0.036873
Romanian Leu	0.065123	0.081973
Russian ruble	0.004849	0.004849
Slovakia	0.009081	0.019081
Swedish Krona	0.028782	0.033782

Swiss Franc	0.304695	0.316695
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.204947	0.216947
New Zealand Dollar	0.198424	0.207924
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.226730	0.235730
US Dollars	0.299900	0.305200
US Dollars Mint	0.300400	0.306200
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003002	0.003803
Chinese Yuan	0.042713	0.046213
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036985	0.039735
Indian Rupee	0.003783	0.004555
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002731	0.002911
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070066	0.076066
Nepalese Rupee	0.002674	0.003014
Pakistan Rupee	0.001398	0.002168
Philippine Peso	0.005821	0.006121
Singapore Dollar	0.219368	0.223368
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001349	0.001929
Taiwan	0.009976	0.010156
Thai Baht	0.009571	0.010121
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.791796	0.808296
Egyptian Pound	0.018609	0.021969
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000209	0.000269
Jordanian Dinar	0.423866	0.432866
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021330	0.045330
Omani Riyal	0.783292	0.788972
Qatar Riyal	0.079234	0.084174
Saudi Riyal	0.079980	0.081280
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.102936	0.110936
Turkish Lira	0.046211	0.056056
UAE Dirhams	0.081343	0.083043
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068

## Business

# China's factory activity shrinks as US tariffs, slowdown hit orders

## Beijing opens more sectors to foreign investment

**BEIJING:** China's factory activity shrank more than expected in June, an official manufacturing survey showed, highlighting the need for more economic stimulus as US tariffs and weaker domestic demand ramped up pressure on new orders for goods.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 49.4 in June, China's National Bureau of Statistics said yesterday, unchanged from the previous month and below the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction on a monthly basis. Analysts polled by Reuters predicted a reading of 49.5.

The weak manufacturing readings are likely to cast a shadow over the apparent progress US and Chinese leaders made at the G20 summit in Japan over the weekend in restarting their troubled talks over tariffs amid a costly trade war. They will also spark concerns about stalling growth in China and the risk of a global recession, despite slightly better-than-expected export and industrial profits data in May. Many economists still expect the economy to face strong headwinds in coming months as domestic demand falters and external risks rise.

"Although the outcome of the G20 summit (in Osaka) might boost confidence for some entities, organic growth in the economy is still insufficient, and counter-cyclical stimulus policies need to be maintained," researchers at Huatai Securities wrote in a research note yesterday. "The PMI index continued to fall across the board this

month, and only the raw material inventory sub-index was up due to weak demand," the research note read. In June, China's factory output growth slowed, with the subindex falling to 51.3 from 51.7 in May while the contraction in total new orders accelerated to 49.6 from 49.8.

Export orders extended their decline with the sub-index falling to 46.3 from May's 46.5, suggesting a further weakening in global demand. Import orders also worsened, reflecting softening demand at home despite a flurry of growth-supporting measures rolled out earlier this year.

Southwest Securities said weak new export orders reflected a fading of the front-loading effect, which had temporarily boosted exports as Chinese companies rushed to place orders before more tariffs took effect. Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping held ice-breaking talks at the G20 summit on Saturday. However, Chinese state media warned yesterday Beijing and Washington will likely face a long road before the two countries could reach a deal. Analysts at Nomura expect any gains achieved on a temporary trade deal between China and the United States would prove fleeting with a renewed escalation likely further down the road.

Trump has already imposed tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods and is threatening to extend those to another \$300 billion, which would effectively cover all of China's exports to the United States. China has retaliated with tariffs on US imports.

To deal with the economic challenges, policymakers have released a range of measures and are expected to launch more. Premier Li Keqiang last week pledged to cut real interest rates on financing for small and micro firms. Goldman Sachs said the lack of any substantive progress in Sino-US trade talks at the G20 over the weekend suggested stimulus, including cuts to banks' reserve requirements, was likely to be needed. "We expect more policy easing (two more reserve requirement ratio cuts in 2H this year, more fiscal measures to support infrastructure investment) to come in the next few months," Goldman Sachs said in a note.

### Foreign investment

China will soften or lift restrictions on foreign investment in new sectors from July 30, authorities announced yesterday, after Beijing and Washington decided to restart negotiations in their trade war. Foreign investors in China have long complained of unfair treatment, with restrictions covering sectors including maritime transport, gas pipelines, cinema, entertainment and telecommunication services, according to the Ministry of Commerce and the NDRC, the powerful economic planning committee.

China has a "negative list" that states which industries are closed to, or regulated for, foreign investment. On July 30 that list will be reduced from the 48 sectors currently included down to 40 according to the Ministry of Commerce and the NDRC.

The announcement comes a day after



Employees work on a drilling machine production line at a factory in Zhangjiakou, Hebei province. — Reuters

China's President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump met on the sidelines of the G20 summit on Saturday, agreeing to restart trade talks that were abruptly halted in May. China and the US have been embroiled in a trade war since last year, slapping tariffs on goods worth \$360 billion in two-way trade.

Trump has demanded Beijing implement structural reforms that guarantee an even playing field for foreign companies. Earlier this month, Chinese premier Li Keqiang

promised his country's market would be opened further to non-Chinese businesses.

"We will soften entry to more sectors to create an international business environment, founded on the market and law," Li told representatives of multinational companies at Beijing's opulent Great Hall of the People. China adopted a law in March that aimed to give foreign investors the same privileges as Chinese companies in most sectors, except those placed on the "negative list". — Agencies

## 'Golden age' of Australian economy fades as dark clouds loom

**SYDNEY:** Australia's record-breaking economic run isn't about to end because of a ban on plastic bags—as one lobby group spuriously claimed—but consumers are buying less, offering a cautionary tale for the rest of the world. Once dubbed the "Goldilocks economy" for avoiding the pitfalls of the global financial crisis, Australia has seen 27 years of uninterrupted expansion—unprecedented in the developed world.

But the outlook appears increasingly bearish, and resilient Australia's faltering growth could be the canary in the coal mine for the world economy. The economy grew just 0.4 percent in the first three months of this year, after near-zero expansion in the second half of 2018. Strip away gains from population growth and the country is technically in a recession. "The big issue is the consumers," National Australia Bank chief economist Alan Oster said. Like many advanced economies, Australia's unemployment rate is not too bad, but like elsewhere there has been a troublesome mixture of high personal debt and stagnant wages.

In response, Australians are being more thrifty—spending less on eating out, paying little heed to almost constant high street discounts, and, crucially, spending less on rent and accommodation. House prices in Sydney have now fallen almost 15 percent from their peak two years ago.

### The emperor's clothes

The downturn has exposed weakness in the Australian economy that had been masked by China's insatiable appetite for Australian com-



Australia's economy grew just 0.4 percent in the first three months of 2019. —AFP

modities. The economy now looks less like Goldilocks and more like the emperor with no clothes. That's a big lesson for the rest of the world as it picks up the pieces after the financial crisis, Gabriele Gratton of the University of New South Wales said.

"The Australian economy didn't diversify enough and it exposed itself to a situation where Australian households are highly indebted," Gratton said. Chinese growth also contributed to the sharp rise in housing prices as both locals and foreigners piled into the market, particularly in the major cities Sydney and Melbourne. But the Chinese economy has been losing momentum in recent years, reducing the demand for commodities and properties in the sun. "If prices do not collapse, then nothing happens. But if prices do collapse, it will cause the type of (problems) that we've seen in Ireland or in Spain," Gratton said.

The Reserve Bank, which just a year ago appeared more likely to raise interest rates,

has reversed course and cut, with more cuts expected. With interest rates already so low, stimulus spending could be on the cards. But both the central bank and the government have limited room for manoeuvre.

"The problem is you don't have the policy instruments that we can pull now that we pulled in the global financial crisis," Oster said. Despite the pessimism, most economists do not believe Australia will slip into recession.

The Australian dollar has been weakening, boosting exports, state and federal governments have been splashing out on public services such as healthcare and infrastructure, and population growth remains strong. Prime Minister Scott Morrison has promised to cut taxes and red tape.

But forecasts over the last year have been repeatedly over-optimistic. Central bank governor Philip Lowe has taken the unusual step of asking the government to spend more—lest the porridge go cold. — AFP

## Ghana farmers sweet on cocoa minimum price drive

**ACCRA, Ghana:** Kwame Boadu was forced to abandon his cocoa plantation to work in Ghana's capital Accra, but when the government announced plans for a price floor he began dreaming of a return to his fields. A higher guaranteed price for the crop means a cocoa farmer "can afford fertilizer, he can afford weedkiller, he can employ more laborers, so he can increase his production", he said.

And moreover it would guarantee that farmers get more money when they increase output, the 34-year-old added. Earlier this month key producers Ivory Coast and Ghana threatened to stop selling their production to buyers unwilling to meet a minimum price of \$2,600 per ton.

The two African nations—which together account for 60 percent of the world's cocoa production—want to end a situation where cocoa producers make only \$6 billion in a global chocolate market worth around \$100 billion. The move sent world cocoa prices briefly above \$2,500 per tonne, but they have since fallen back below that level.

After spending much of 2015 above \$3,000 per ton, world cocoa prices slumped, fluctuating around \$2,000 in 2017. The price drop squeezed farmers, who welcome government intervention.

"We don't have anything to sell apart from cocoa," said Alhaji Alhassan Bukari, who heads up Ghana's farmers' union. "So if the government has thought about the farmers, they come together to fight for the farmers, we support them," he said.

Cocoa is a key sector of the national economy, according to the Ghana Cocoa Board, both in terms of providing employment to around 800,000 families and generating revenue for the government's coffers. Ghana's Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia said earlier this month at a meeting with farmers and buyers that Ghana and Ivory Coast made

their proposal to ensure farmers get "a fair share of the wealth that the industry generates". Establishing a price floor would also help revive rural communities. "A satisfactory price of cocoa beans will go a long way to complement the government's investments in rural infrastructure and improve the wellbeing of the communities," said Bawumia.

### From cocoa to chocolate

But farmers aren't the only ones concerned by the discussion over cocoa prices. While chocolate has long been a marginal product in Ghana, despite the country being a major producer of its primary ingredient, in recent years a new batch of chocolate makers has set up shop. Selassie Atadika, the chocolatier at Midunu, a maker of handcrafted chocolates, says she has noticed more local chocolate on the shelves in Ghana's shops.

"I think in general there is more awareness, people are using it at more events and things like that so there is probably an increase in people's interest in buying chocolate." These local producers have an interest in cocoa prices, and fear a jump in prices could hurt their businesses.

Atadika said she hopes a price floor would help cocoa farmers. But for those trying to develop chocolate as a product "issues remain, even if the price of cocoa beans does not change, the price of sugar, milk powder and electricity will still be a major influence in their capability to make the chocolate", she said. One thing is clear for her, however: "If the (cocoa) price goes up it will have a negative impact on us." But it isn't clear that the price floor will impact domestic producers as the proposal concerns exports, which come from the main harvest.

Local producers buy beans from the second, smaller harvest. Moreover, they enjoy a subsidy on the purchase of beans from this harvest, according to the Ghana Cocoa Board.

"What would make an impact on domestic chocolate makers is if there was a loosening of regulations regarding who can sell and buy main crop beans, which would open opportunities for new domestic sourcing routes for cocoa," said Kristy Leissle, a cocoa industry expert and lecturer at the University of Washington Bothell. — Reuters

## ECOWAS adopts 'ECO' as name for planned common currency

**ABUJA:** Leaders of the member states of the Economic Community of West African States, known as ECOWAS, formally agreed Saturday to name a planned common currency the "ECO". The 15-member group announced at the end of a summit in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, that "ECO was adopted as the name of the ECOWAS single currency."

The idea of a common currency for the West African region was first mooted almost 30 years ago in the hope of boosting cross border trade and economic development. The aim is to have the currency in place by next year and leaders in Abuja reaffirmed the "gradual approach to the single currency starting with countries that meet the convergent criteria," a statement said.

It said the currency would be based on a flexible exchange rate regime, coupled with a monetary policy framework focused on inflation targeting. Member states should pursue appropriate policies and structural reforms that will sustain accelerated growth and the structural transformation of their economies, it added. Economists say they understand the thinking behind the currency plan but believe it is unrealistic and could even be dangerous for the region's economies which are dominated by one single country, Nigeria, which accounts for two-thirds of the region's economic output.

ECOWAS was set up in 1975 and comprises Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast,



This photo taken in a N'Djamena, Chad, shows CFA banknotes of the CFA currency issued by the Central Bank of West African States (Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, BCEAO) and used in the eight west African countries which share the common West African CFA franc currency. — AFP

Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo—representing a total population of around 385 million.

Eight ECOWAS countries—Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo—currently use the CFA franc. They are moored to the single European currency and are gathered in an organization called the West African Monetary Union, or WAMU. — AFP



Two cocoa pods, which can each hold some 30 to 40 cocoa beans that are used to make chocolate. — AFP

## Business

# HSBC scoops top honors in 4 categories in Euromoney Mideast banking awards

## Awards recognize HSBC for excellence in quality of service and performance

**KUWAIT:** HSBC has been named best bank in four major categories in Euromoney's annual marquee awards for the Middle East, picking up more honors than any other bank in this year's competition.

Named the Middle East's Best Bank for Transaction Services, the Middle East's Best Bank for Sustainable Finance, the Best Investment Bank in Oman, and the Best Investment Bank in Saudi Arabia, the awards recognize HSBC for excellence in terms of quality of service and performance.

The awards, considered among the most prestigious in the financial services industry, were presented in a ceremony at the Euromoney Middle East Awards for Excellence gala in Dubai.

"Winning these awards is a tremendous achievement and a powerful independent validation of the commitment HSBC has to delivering excellence for our customers as we



Martin Tricaud

drive our next period of growth in the region," said Martin Tricaud, Chief Executive Officer for HSBC in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT). Commenting on HSBC's transaction services win, Euromoney commended HSBC for the support it provides its clients in helping them migrate to digital banking.

Transaction banking is a strategic growth priority for HSBC in MENAT, where significant investments have been in digital products and channels to deliver transfor-

mational trade finance and cash management services. In the most recent Euromoney Cash Management and Trade Finance surveys for the Middle East, HSBC was voted as the #1 Regional Cash Manager for Corporates and as the #1 Regional Trade Finance provider. HSBC was also recognized by Euromoney for being at the forefront of sustainable finance in the Middle East, saying: "When it comes to supporting the transition to a low carbon future across the Middle East, one bank is leading the way - HSBC."

HSBC has a global commitment to provide \$100 billion in sustainable financing by 2025, with MENAT delivering key components of the strategy. Most recently, HSBC acted as Sole Green Structuring Advisor and Joint Global Coordinator on the successful issuance of a \$600 million green Sukuk by Majid Al-Futtaim Holding LLC, the first benchmark-size green Sukuk by a corporate globally.

## Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

### The lucky winners are:

1. Waheedah Haidar Boshehri
2. Amira Qasem Qasem
3. Samar Azizborordirdi
4. Nourah Rashed Abdullh Allothman
5. Burhanuddin Sultan

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks which include Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Bank of Baghdad - BOB (Iraq & Lebanon), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and fully owned Burgan Bank - Turkey, (collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group"). Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a present in the UAE through its corporate office ("Burgan Financial Services Limited) which had helped the bank to participate in multiple financing opportunities in the UAE.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. "People come first" is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

## Abdullah Al-Langawy appointed GM of AUB's Treasury

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced in a press release that after obtaining the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait, it appointed Abdullah Mahmoud Al-Langawy as General Manager of AUB Treasury effective from 23/06/2019. Abdullah was holding the position Deputy General Manager of the Bank's Treasury since 2017. During this period, he achieved many accomplishments which qualified him to undertake the position of General Manager of Treasury.

On this event, Tareq Muhmood, Acting CEO at AUB Kuwait said that Abdullah Al-Langawy has been appointed



Abdullah Al-Langawy

in this position due to the distinguished professional record and considerable expertise he has in the banking industry, noting that Al-Langawy has brilliant banking competencies and excellent professional history. During his career, he gained a lot of experience in all areas of the banking management functions. Muhmood expressed his confidence in the professional capabilities of Al-Langawy which will enable him to carry out his duties and responsibilities in line with the Bank's vision.

The appointment of Al-Langawy forms part of AUB commitment to motivate the qualified national staff for senior positions in the bank. Al-Langawy holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kuwait University and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Maastricht School of Management. He also received several certificates, including, Investment Management Certificate and Investment Portfolio Management from the Wharton School - the University of Pennsylvania and Leadership Development Program from Harvard Business School, Boston, United States of America.

## Al-Mulla Automobiles delivers a batch of Mercedes-Benz Vito for Automak Co

**KUWAIT:** Al Mulla Automobiles Co, the authorized Mercedes-Benz distributor, Commercial Vehicle Division, in Kuwait, has announced a delivery of Mercedes-Benz Vito Tourer for Automak Automotive Company, one of the largest leasing companies in Kuwait which provides services for 12 countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe since 2002.

During the delivery ceremony, Ralph Geyer the General Manager, Commercial Vehicles Division at Al-Mulla Automobiles said: "We are very pleased with this collaboration with Automak and we were keen to work closely with them over the past period to ensure delivery of the required vehicles on time. These commercial vehicles are essential for the growth of the company's business and contribute to the success of its strategies to meet its customers' requirements."

He further added: "We hope that the Mercedes-Benz Vito Tourer will bring the company's business to new dimensions that are in line with its development strategy and we wish it success and growth in Kuwait and the region."

Geyer commented that: "The Vito Tourer's exceed the expectations of our corporate customers. The innovative design gives the vehicle the ability to transport more passengers in a comfortable, secure manner. It can accommodate up to nine passengers and comes with three designs to suit different categories of family and commercial transport."

On his part, Rami Al-Borno, Corporate Sales Manager, at Automak stated: "The new Mercedes-Benz Vito are an added value to the company and we are very pleased to partner with Al-Mulla Automobile's, Commercial Vehicle Division and look forward to continue to work and succeed together."

He further added that: "We are confident that these vans will appeal to our customers in Kuwait both individuals and companies, and anyone looking for a convenient means of transport for a large number of passengers, Mercedes-Benz Vito Tourer offers the highest standards of safety and comfort."

Founded in 2002, Automak provides short- and long-term car rental services to individuals and Institutes, covering the Middle East and North Africa and some European countries.



## Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma weekly account

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank conducted the weekly draws on Al-Najma Account and the draw on the "Salary and Cash on Top" campaign. The draws were conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jean.

The results of the draw were as follows:

1. Al-Najma weekly account - the prize of KD 5,000 and was for the share of Nouriah Marzouq Al-Shamlan

2. The "Salary & Cash on Top campaign" prize of KD 1,000 and was for the share of Yousef Thiab Mohammad Hajji.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000, monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the largest prize - linked bank account payout of KD 1,500,000. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against cus-

tomers' account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

As regarding "Salary & Cash on Top" campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees as well as the retirees and which is valid until 31 December 2019 and the mechanism of joining this campaign for availing its benefits, the Bank explained that Kuwaiti employees with a salary of KD 500 and above whether newly recruited or in service can transfer their salary to the bank and avail the benefits of this campaign by getting instant cash gift of KD 250 or an interest free loan five times the salary up to KD 10,000, add to this they will automatically enter the weekly draw on KD 1,000. As for the expatriate customers categorized under premier banking account with a salary of KD 1,700 and above, they will get instant cash gift. The retirees with pension KD 1,000 and above will also get an instant cash gift of KD 150 when transferring their pension to the bank and automatically enter the weekly draw on a prize of KD 1,000 and avail the benefits of this campaign designated for Kuwaiti and expatriate employees working in private and public sector as well as the retirees. Further, the campaign provides customers with the opportunity to get additional benefits and take advantage of the advanced and unrivalled products and services the bank provides to its customers to meet their needs and expectations.

## 'Can't be choosy': Brazil's jobless take any work they can get

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Standing in line outside an employment center in Rio de Janeiro, Thaysa dos Santos says she is ready to accept any job. As one of Brazil's 13 million unemployed, she says she cannot be "choosy." As Latin America's biggest economy threatens to slide back into recession, just two years after emerging from a devastating crisis, finding work is harder than ever.

"Nowadays it is very difficult," says dos Santos, 27, a former office assistant who has been looking for a full-time job for three months. "People can't be choosy. We can't get a job that matches our CV so we have to take whatever is available." Brazil's 12.3 percent jobless rate is higher than at any point during the 2015-2016 recession that caused the economy to shrink nearly seven percent. Since then, sluggish growth-the economy expanded 1.1 percent in 2017 and 2018, and analysts expect an even slower pace this year-is discouraging companies from expanding their payrolls, despite a new pro-business president in Jair Bolsonaro. With limited government assistance available, many unemployed Brazilians rely on family for support or pick up informal jobs where they can, but that means lower paid, cash-in-hand work offering no health insurance. Wanderson Cesar, 32, has been looking for a

permanent security guard position for more than four years.

He counts himself lucky to have a wife who works as a receptionist. With the money he gets for odd jobs, the couple can just about make ends meet. "I'm a man so I need to work to provide food for my family. I need to help," Cesar says as he waits to enter the job center.

### Lack of education

The problem is not just a shortage of jobs. Some companies struggle to attract qualified applicants for the positions that are available, says Aline Cardoso, labor secretary for Brazil's largest city Sao Paulo.

"This can be in more technical, sophisticated professions, but sometimes even the most basic professions lack qualified applicants," says Cardoso. Brazil's woeful school system is partly to blame. The World Bank estimated in 2017 that it would take Brazilian 15-year-olds 75 years to reach the OECD average score in maths, and more than 260 years in reading. And that is if they actually finish school. Only 69 percent of Brazilians aged 15-19 are enrolled in education, the OECD said last year-one of the lowest rates in its group. Lucia Santos did not even complete nine years of elementary school, which is for children aged six to 14. The 23-year-old mother of two has been looking for full-time work as a cashier for five years.

"Now it's more complicated because employers want you to have finished elementary school," says Santos, who left after year eight. Chronic unemployment is getting worse. The number of people out of work for more than two years reached 3.3 million in the first quarter-an increase of 42.4 percent in four years, the government-backed Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) said recently. — AFP

## Huawei (CBG), the first in Kuwait to launch Huawei Mate 20 X (5G)

**KUWAIT:** Advanced technology has never stopped surprising us, and this is the case with the developments in the connectivity industry, 5G connectivity has now become the future of contemporary networking. Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) will be the first in Kuwait to launch its Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) in July 2019 to support the vigorous 5G connectivity in the State of Kuwait.

For those who are interested in upgrading their smartphone experience, the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) promises you with a powerful performance, faster internet speed and downloads, a long-lasting battery, and unparalleled entertainment that will surely take your 5G experience to the next level.

Huawei's reputation and history of innovation differentiate them among their rivals and positions them as leaders in providing creative connectivity solutions. Wondering what makes the HUAWEI Mate 20 X (5G) different from other 5G devices? Here's the answer, it's a customer-centric innovation, with amazing features.

### Dual 5G chipsets

Huawei has equipped the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) with Kirin 980 and Balong 5000, a 5G multi-mode chipset and the world's first commercial 7nm mobile AI system-on-a-chip (SoC) respectively. The 7nm Balong 5000 is compatible with multiple generations of network technology including 4G, 3G and 2G. Huawei empowered this smartphone to identify slow Internet connection and thus switch between different networks. While some 5G phones support only Non-Standalone (NSA) networking mode, Huawei Mate 20X 5G supports both NSA and Standalone (SA). The SA, the recent version of networking mode, ensures a better performance and higher efficiency for your phone.

### Powerful Matrix camera system

On the back of the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G), you can see the Matrix camera system that promises stunning shots in any scenario ranging from macro to ultra-wide. The powerful setup houses three Leica cameras, a 40MP wide angle, 20MP Ultra-Wide angle and the 8MP telephoto camera, all of them work together with the powerful on-board AI to deliver stunning photos.

### Ultra-Large OLED display

The Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) comes packed with a massive 7.2-inch Dewdrop Display complemented by extremely slim bezels paving the way for a superior viewing experience.

### Long lasting battery

Under the hood of the Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) rests a massive 4200mAh high density battery that can last for extended periods of use. This is further supported by the 40W Huawei SuperCharge and certified by TÜV Rheinland, an authoritative and independent international organization that provides product safety assessment and certification services.

### Improved cooling solutions

The Huawei Mate 20 X (5G) comes built with a groundbreaking cooling solution that utilizes graphene film and vapor chamber that keeps the phone cool. This technology ensures that even during high performance or extended use, the phone remains cool and responsive, not creating any hiccups in performance.

\* Actual user experience is based on telecom operators' networks and associated deployments.

What's On

# KCST aims to become specialized university with hi-tech programs

By Faten Omar

Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) a private university located in Kuwait's Doha district, was established with the purpose of providing internationally-recognized undergraduate and graduate degree programs in various fields. Kuwait Times spoke with Professor Khalid Al-Begain, President of KCST, to learn more about the college and what it offers to students to qualify them to be future leaders and entrepreneurs with the needed expertise.

"KCST was licensed by an Amiri decree in 2008 by the Ministry of Higher Education in Kuwait. It was established with the purpose of providing internationally-recognized undergraduate degree courses in science and technology. But it only started its degree programs in 2015-2016. We started with 340 students in 2016, and now we have more than 1,000 registered for the next semester," he said.

Al-Begain noted that KCST aimed to become a specialized university with hi-tech engineering programs to satisfy the Kuwaiti market. "We started in 2016 with three programs: Bachelor in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electronic and Communications Engineering," he said. He stressed

that the programs were set up with academic consultancy provided by the world-renowned Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D), where this partnership augments the scientific strength of the university and ensures that future developments follow education standards comparable with IIT-D.

"We will also cooperate with City, University of London Cass Business School to open a faculty of business management. We will offer degrees in digital business, energy management and entrepreneurship. This will allow students to get a better job," he said. Al-Begain revealed that the college is planning to expand. "KCST has applied to the Private Universities Council (PUC) of Kuwait for approval to add more new engineering programs including Civil Engineering with environmental and infrastructure specializations, Mechanical Engineering including robotics and medical, Electrical and Industrial. We choose the needed program but not in the traditional way, to serve what matters to Kuwait."

He stressed that most of the students go through a foundation year that was designed based on the British and Indian IIT-D curriculum, which has become very successful. "In addition, We are going to run a program that will qualify students for a guaranteed acceptance to study in top British uni-



Professor Khalid Al-Begain

versities after passing that program. Also, we are running a pre-master's program for people who want to continue their master's degree in the UK," Al-Begain said.

Regarding scholarships, he said "high school students with 95 and above GPA will get a 50 percent discount to encourage them, as our goal is to have the best students. Also, students who are already

studying in universities with a high GPA (3.5-3.67) get a 20 to 50 percent merit scholarships." According to Al-Begain, the university campus has a 520-seat auditorium, lecture theatres, as well as many lecture rooms and laboratories. "In our next expansion, we will build an indoor sports center as well as additional sports facilities," he revealed. "We have 12 successful research projects funded by KFAS. We have a policy here, that every professor who gets a funded project from KFAS gets an additional fund from the university to support them to involve students. Also, we have 13 scientific, cultural and art student clubs to cover all areas including photography, robotics and more," Al-Begain added. In order to follow up its graduates and communicate with its students, Kuwait College of Science and Technology has established an alumni club for graduates in order to get their feedback or suggestions to improve the university or continued advice on career development. He concluded by saying that KCST is establishing a unique facility in the university called the innovation lab, which linked to the international FabLab network managed by MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms in the US. People can apply for a training course that will be available not only for students but for the entire community.



The management of Flow House Kuwait organized the 2nd GCC Surf Competition with 30 participants from all over GCC. Media personnel, athletes and sports officials were present at the event.

## PUBG MOBILE launches Gameplay Management pilot across Middle East

PUBG MOBILE is working to support a sustainable digital lifestyle by launching a new 'Gameplay Management' system to encourage players in the Middle East to enjoy a balanced PUBG

MOBILE experience. The system will be piloted across the UAE, Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Qatar, before being rolled out across the entire region, PUBG MOBILE will continue to assess players' needs to adjust and enhance Gameplay Management as required.

The Gameplay Management is a system of reminders and checks for players to ensure that they enjoy the game in a sustainable and balanced manner. It empowers the gamers to take control of their digital lifestyle while playing the game online. All players will need to confirm their age to activate the Gameplay Management when they login for the first time, with players under the age of 18 having to acknowledge a gaming advisory before they can start the game.

As part of its commitment to encouraging sustainable digital lifestyle, PUBG MOBILE has created a notification system for younger players to help them better monitor and manage their time spent playing the game. If accumulated gameplay is between 4-6 hours, players under the age of 18 will be notified of total time spent on the game. If gameplay exceeds six hours, the system will temporarily suspend access, encouraging players to take 15-minute breaks every two hours before resuming the game.

"We want to ensure that players enjoy the game in a balanced manner. The Gameplay Management will help players of all ages, but particularly younger players, make informed choices in managing their time spent playing the game. We are committed to doing all we

can to support our PUBG MOBILE fan community in the Middle East as we meet our commitment to continue to provide a positive interactive entertainment experience", said Herman Zhao, Director of PUBG MOBILE Operation Team in Middle East and North Africa region.

The system will be introduced to other international markets in the coming months, making PUBG MOBILE one of the first interactive entertainment providers to deploy a gameplay management system on a global basis. PUBG MOBILE's openness to engaging with local players, parents, and e-sport communities to further enhance the Gameplay Management is testament to the fact that it is devoted to providing a better gaming environment and user experience.

Health

# 10 steps ahead: Kenya's tech war on wildlife poachers

**OL PEJETA, Kenya:** Every morning, at the far perimeter of the wildlife reserve capped by Mount Kenya, a khaki-clad ranger meticulously sweeps the earth of animal footprints, covering their tracks from any poachers. It's an antiquated approach to outsmarting would-be hunters, but this ranger is not alone. High on a mast nearby, a new camera scans around the clock for intrusions, relaying real-time images to armed guards at park headquarters.

It is among the latest technology deployed to combat poaching at Ol Pejeta, a private conservancy on Kenya's Laikipia plateau that shelters the only two northern white rhinos left on earth, among other endangered giants. A handful of surveillance cameras may not seem very sophisticated for a sanctuary which is also home to the largest population of critically endangered black rhinos anywhere in East Africa. But it's just the tip of the spear.

Last month, Ol Pejeta launched what it calls the world's first wildlife tech lab—a research hub at the heart of the sanctuary dedicated to bringing conservation management into the information age. Inside a retrofitted shipping container, computer engineers are testing the next generation of animal tracking chips and

developing remote sensors that could one day monitor everything from ranger health to river levels. "We are very much in our infancy when it comes to this kind of stuff. It is pretty cutting-edge from a conservation perspective," Richard Vigne, the chief executive of Ol Pejeta, told AFP.

Among other projects, researchers are working towards a chip small enough to fit in a rhino horn, but capable of live transmission of the animals' exact location and core vitals. "No one else in the conservation space in Kenya is testing this... For me, that was very exciting," said Damian Otieno, a Kenyan IT engineer who left an office job for a career in conservation tech, and now leads the Ol Pejeta initiative. Tech advocates say advances in data collection and smart applications on game reserves could prove revolutionary, and upend decades-old approaches to conservation across the world.

**Bank without doors**

Until this year at Ol Pejeta, the only way to know if a poacher was lurking near a wildlife corridor was to spot him yourself, or trawl through pictures captured by a motion-triggered camera trap. "If I had a bugbear about

the world of conservation, it's that it tends to be fairly slow on the uptake when it comes to new technologies... that has to change," said Vigne. Now, three cameras with artificial intelligence capable of telling man from beast send alerts in real time if disturbances are detected.

This is critical for the 250 elite rangers tasked with safeguarding 360 square kilometers of bushland grazed by more than 150 rhinos. The last successful poaching at Ol Pejeta was in October 2017, when a northern black rhino was slaughtered. But the threat remains. Last year, three rhinos were found dead with their horns missing in Meru National Park, on the other side of Mount Kenya.

Rhino horn is highly valued in parts of Asia for its believed medicinal qualities and still fetches higher prices than gold, said Samuel Mutisya, head of conservation at Ol Pejeta.

"In principal, we are a bank without doors," he told AFP. Most intel on game reserves is gathered on foot by rangers in difficult and dangerous terrain, and the walkie-talkie reigns supreme. Poor network coverage and the huge cost of infrastructure has hamstrung the rollout of even basic telecommunication services in some remote habitats.

**Ten steps ahead**

Ol Pejeta however is connected to a stable network that requires little power to cover the entire park. Data on everything from security breaches to fence damage, lion sightings and ranger locations is fed into a digital dashboard, accessible at a finger's touch. A pair of flashing handcuffs on the screen indicates an arrest. A "poacher contact" alert would trigger the

immediate deployment of armed rangers. Other innovations have been tested elsewhere in Africa to combat wildlife crime, but cost remains a major hurdle to widespread uptake. Drones, thermal-imaging cameras and virtual-radar fences were among technologies trialed to mixed success in several African nations by WWF through a Google-backed program that ended in 2017. — AFP



**OL PEJETA, Kenya:** A picture shows the world's last female pair of northern white Rhinoceros, Najin, left, with her daughter Fatu in their enclosure at Ol-Pejeta conservancy at Laikipia's county headquarters, Nanyuki. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE

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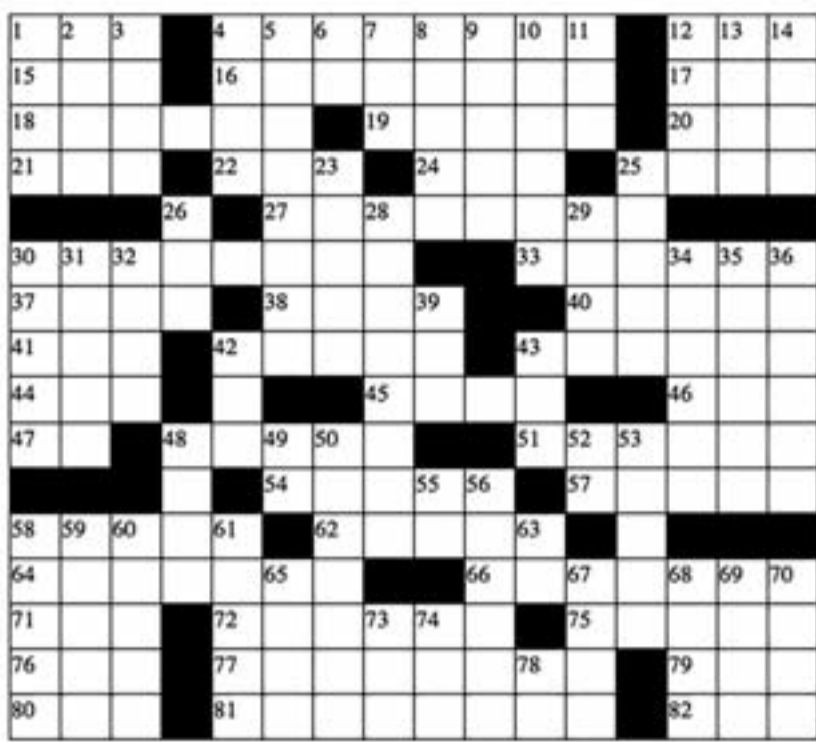
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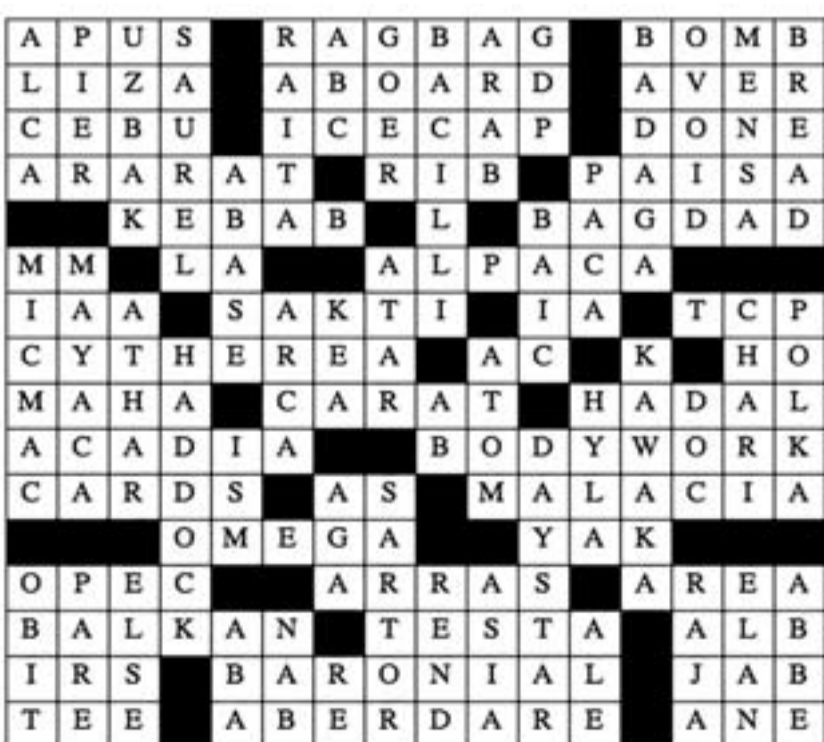
ACROSS

1. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
4. A helpful partner.
12. A fatal disease of cattle that affects the central nervous system.
15. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
16. Of or relating to the United States of America or its people or language or culture.
17. A reproach for some lapse or misdeed.
18. Become imbued.
19. The largest Greek island in the Mediterranean.
20. The residue that remains when something is burned.
21. An association of countries in the western hemisphere.
22. A doctor's degree in education.
24. The universal time coordinated when an event is received on Earth.
27. A guidebook describing the roads of a country.
30. A native or inhabitant of Bahrain.
33. A person who delivers a speech or oration.
37. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
38. (Middle East) An ornamental metal cup-shaped holder for a hot coffee cup.
40. Make less active or intense.
41. A form of address for a married woman.
44. Fleishy folds of tissue as those surrounding the mouth.
45. Material used to daub walls.
46. The younger of two major political parties in the United States.
47. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
51. A solid food prepared from the pressed curd of milk.
54. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
57. Of time long past.
58. Seeming unaffected by pleasure or pain.
62. The cardinal number that is the sum of five and one.
64. Tree of the genus Catalpa with large leaves and white flowers followed by long slender pods.
66. Genus of South and Central American heathlike evergreen shrubs.
71. (usually followed by 'to') Naturally disposed toward.
72. A conspicuous constellation in the northern hemisphere.
75. A communist state in Indochina on the South China Sea.
76. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
77. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
79. How long something has existed.
80. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
81. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
82. Estrangement from god.

DOWN

1. The dynasty that ruled much of Manchuria and northeastern China from 947 to 1125.
2. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
3. A girl or young woman who is unmarried.
4. Not easy.
5. Old World buntings.
6. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
7. A communist nation that covers a vast territory in eastern Asia.
8. Entangled or hindered as if e.g. in mire.
9. Sour or bitter in taste.
10. A drumbeat of bugle call that signals the military to return to their quarters.
11. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
12. (informal) Exceptionally good.
13. A framework that holds the panes of a window in the window frame.
14. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
23. The Teutonic god of thunder.
25. Jordan's port.
26. Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quantities.
28. Breed of large wiry-coated terrier bred in Yorkshire.
29. Toward the mouth or oral region.
31. Strong and sharp.
32. A fastener for a door or lid.
34. Bearing or marked with a label or tag.
35. Serving no useful purpose.
36. Open again or anew.
39. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
42. The compass point that is one point north of due east.
43. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
48. Type genus of the Amniidae.
49. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
50. A Nilo-Saharan language spoken in parts of Chad.
52. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
53. Suggestive of an elf in strangeness and otherworldliness.
55. An edge tool with a heavy bladed head mounted across a handle.
56. An overland journey by hunters (especially in Africa).
59. A convex shape that narrows toward a point.
60. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
61. A fastener (as a buckle or hook) that is used to hold two things together.
63. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
65. An insect in the inactive stage of development (when it is not feeding) intermediate between larva and adult.
67. A small cake leavened with yeast.
68. Type genus of the Anatidae.
69. Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
70. A primeval personification of air and breath.
73. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
74. A crystalline rock that can be cut and polished for jewelry.
78. Being nine more than ninety.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

In the future when you sit back and reminisce on some of the best times in your life, today will come to mind. Love and friendship comes naturally to you today. Your world is filled with both. Special times are to be spent with love ones today and lasting memories will be made. You may find an unbelievable opportunity will come your way. Lady luck is smiling at you today. This day will find you in the right place at the right time. It seems as if a financial matter is resolved with an unexpected cash flow. Accept gifts and good fortune with much gratitude today. Do not resist what was meant to be. Aries. Enjoy the smile you are unable to wipe off of your face.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

People are creatures of habit. You seem fascinated today by learning what makes people tick. Why do certain people act certain ways. You have asked yourself, "what in the world is wrong with people?" on more than one occasion today. This suddenly becomes a mission for you. You want to get to the root of the issues that make people close to you make the choices they have been making. Taking time to open up to others and have them open up to you may give you a much greater understanding of this problem. Keep an open mind and you may have great understanding of the differences you are seeing in people.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Sex, power, and money, are what you are drawn to today. Secrets and mysteries draw you in. All that is taboo is fascinating to you today. You have a desire to know what makes people tick. What makes people do the things they do? You start to realize what an impact your own past can have on your future. You are able to have some time to reflect and realize each stumbling block in your past has been successfully turned into stepping stones by you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great time to stop and really think about how you feel about your life and yourself. This is a nice time for you. Your emotions and the feelings of those around you may be very clear to you now. A time of understanding and a time of love is what this day may bring. You may start to focus your energy on learning more about your peers. Learning what makes people tick is a turn on for you. People seem to fascinate you and you are curious and want to get to the root of who they really are. Secrets, drama, and all that is considered taboo, is where you find your focus has drifted.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

When speaking you may find others are captivated by what you have to say. You may find yourself bringing a group together with your words and ideas. Others may find they are swept away to the day and time you are speaking of. This is a true talent. This is a great day for job-related events. You may shine in your job. You could be offered a promotion coming your way. You may find you are asked to speak on behalf of your company or represent your company in some way. You are the voice others long to hear.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today you may feel as though you have hit a bump in the road. There may even be one person you feel is standing in your way. Aquarius, you will be able to be understanding and cut right through the smoke and mirrors to get to the root of the problem with this individual. You will be admired for your leadership skills. You may find yourself focusing on your sexual needs today. This may be an area you desire dominance and control, Virgo. Relationships are very important to you. You seem to see the beauty in all that surrounds you. Enjoy this day.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You know exactly what you want, and you know exactly how you plan on accomplishing your goals. Your mind is made up and you are more determined now than ever to make things happen. You may want to sit down with your journal and put these ideas on paper, this will help you keep your focus and limit the chance of any distraction. Your ambition is so intense at this time they you may find yourself dismissing all that does not play a direct role in your success. Put some of your focus on balance and making time for those closest to you. This will prevent resentment and conflict in the future.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Whether it is sexual, the desire for power, or the desire for wealth, these are all areas that seem to turn you on and set you in motion today. You may find yourself in a very sensual mood at this time. Things seem to affect you on a much deeper level now. The mysterious, secretive, and even that which is taboo seem to call to you and draw you in. You may desire to learn people on a deeper level. You want to know them from the inside out. You may also desire to do some soul-searching of your own and learn yourself in the same manner.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today you may feel as though you have hit a bump in the road. There may even be one person you feel is standing in your way. Aquarius, you will be able to be understanding and cut right through the smoke and mirrors to get to the root of the problem with this individual. You will be admired for your leadership skills. You may find yourself focusing on your sexual needs today. This may be an area you desire dominance and control, Sagittarius. Relationships are very important to you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a time when lovers, children, and people and things dear to your heart take center stage. You have your priorities in order. You know where your bread is buttered. Without these things you may feel as if you would never know what happiness truly is. You find that those close to you shower you with affection and attention. It feels wonderful to be loved and needed. You may find that you are extremely sensitive to the needs of those close to you. In return you are receiving the nurturing and affection your heart has been desiring. Enjoy this wonderful time.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find that you not only have a greater appreciation for things of value but for value itself today. You may find this to be a period of great material gain. It is a time that material things have a great importance to you. You may find yourself in an unrealistic and dreamy mood. You seem to be at odds with your responsibilities. Your friends are used to a more disciplined side of you. You may find that do not like the way you are behaving. Do not be surprised if you find your friends avoiding you at this time. Aquarius. This may make you feel as if you do not have the support you need.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Every action has a consequence. You seem to be one that tends to have to learn this the hard way. This may be a time wiping the slate clean may be in order. Set your goals. Start over from scratch. If things do not work out the first time, roll up your sleeves and try again. Eventually you will accomplish your goals. Stay focused and determined, you may find great reward awaits you.

Wordsearch Puzzle

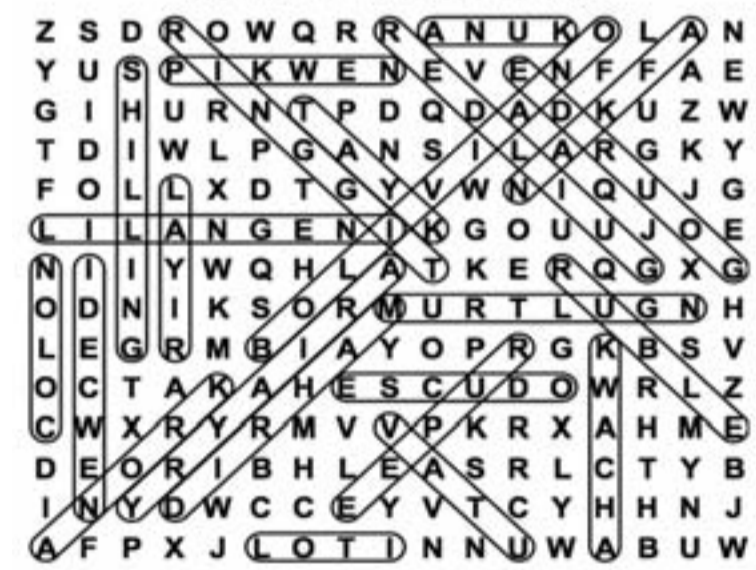
World Currencies 3 - Word Search



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|---------|----------|-------|
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| DALASI  | LEONE    | SYLI  |
| DENAR   | LIRA     | TAKA  |
| EURO    | MANAT    | YEN   |
| FORINT  | NEW DONG | ZLOTY |
| HRYVNIA | PATACA   |       |
| KINA    | PESO     |       |
| KORUNA  | PULA     |       |

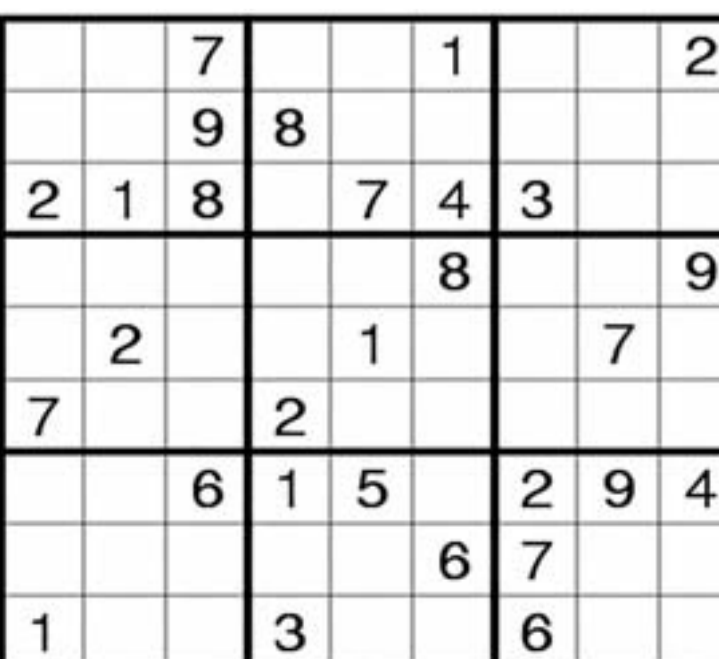
Yesterday's Solution

World Currencies 2 - Solution



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|-----------|-----------|----------|
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| BOLIVIANO | KYAT      | RUBLE    |
| COLON     | LILANGENI | RUPEE    |
| DIRHAM    | LOTI      | SHILLING |
| ESCUDO    | NAKFA     | VATU     |
| GOURDE    | NEW CEDI  |          |
| GUILDER   | NEW KIP   |          |
| KRONA     | NGULTRUM  |          |

Daily Sudoku



Yesterday's Solution



# Lifestyle

MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019



Visitors take shelter from the heat under "Umbrella Sky Project" installation by Portuguese artist Patricia Cunha in Aix-en-Provence as a heat wave hits France with temperatures that may exceed 45 degrees Celsius, a high never seen in mainland France. — AFP

## SECRETS OF A SUPERCHEF: ALAIN DUCASSE ON PURSUING PERFECTION



This picture shows chef Alain Ducasse posing for a picture during an interview with AFP at his restaurant Alain Ducasse at the Morpheus hotel in Macau. — AFP photos



Chef Alain Ducasse posing for a picture during an interview with AFP at his restaurant Alain Ducasse at the Morpheus hotel in Macau.



This picture shows the restaurant Alain Ducasse at the Morpheus hotel in Macau.



Photo shows the restaurant Alain Ducasse at the Morpheus hotel in Macau.

As one of the world's most decorated chefs, Alain Ducasse is known for his forensic attention to detail—from thrice-ironed tablecloths to hand-picked decor and cutlery. But he has an unexpected weapon in his pursuit of perfection: he closely monitors social media to keep an eye on customer reviews of his culinary empire. The 62-year-old is arguably the doyen of France's "grande cuisine". His eateries currently have 20 Michelin stars, more than any living contemporary, and three of his restaurants have the coveted three-star accolade.

But just as Ducasse—who now boasts more than 30 restaurants across seven countries—blends tradition and modernity in his menus, he sees tech as a way to finesse the dining experience. It's through social media that he discovered Benoit, his popular New York bistro, was messing up a classic French dish. "Looking at the customer reviews we realized there was an issue. Everyone was complaining about the roast chicken," Ducasse tells AFP during a visit to Macau.

"It was unbelievable," he recalls, adding that this helped them spot-and fix-the issue immediately. That Ducasse personally monitors the social media of all his restaurants is indicative of a man who insists on maintaining control over a sprawling inter-continental business. "Before we opened here we spent three years choosing every detail. I know every object, there was a lot of personal involvement," Ducasse says of his eponymous restaurant in Macau at the Morpheus, a new 40-storey luxury hotel designed by the late Zaha Hadid that is held together by an eye-catching steel exoskeleton.

### Chefs as a brand

The last two decades have seen chefs with global status rapidly expand their international footprint, sometimes at a cost. Gordon Ramsey's culinary empire has had a financial journey of peaks and troughs almost as notorious as the British chef's famous temper—and his career high of 16 Michelin stars is now trimmed to seven. Fellow British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver saw his UK business go into liquidation earlier this year with the loss of more than 1,000 jobs. Yet Ducasse—much like the late Joel Robuchon whose restaurants earned 32 Michelin stars during his career—sails on, expanding with no shortage of critical acclaim.

Morpheus, which just celebrated its one year anniversary, earned two Michelin stars within six months. Ducasse's arrival in Macau was fortuitous. The gambling hub has been ordered by Beijing to diversify away from casinos and become a more family-friendly destination, leading to a dramatic surge in fine dining given the plethora of well-heeled,

primarily mainland Chinese tourists that flock to the city. It now boasts three three-star restaurants and five two-stars—an astonishing per capita ratio considering Macau is home to just 620,000 people.

Macau, Ducasse says, is now "very competitive. (You) cannot sleep, you have to stay awake". Ducasse's first foray into Asia began some 15 years ago in Japan, followed by Hong Kong and then Macau. Later this year he plans to open a restaurant in a glitzy Bangkok mall and a Mediterranean influenced grill in Singapore's Raffles hotel. But Asian cooking, he says, is something he never plans to take on. "I'm not going to be a sushi master because it takes ten years to learn to be a master of sushi. I do not have enough time," he says. Customers in Asia, he explains, are looking for the best of French cooking.

### 'Haute couture'

The one overseas cuisine he says he finds more comfortable incorporating into his top-end restaurants is Middle Eastern fare—something France understands because of its colonial footprint. While all of Ducasse's top-tier restaurants are unabashedly French—London's Dorchester, the Plaza Athenee in Paris and the Le Louis XV in Monaco—his restaurant IDAM in Qatar, he says, is an exception to this rule. "It's an incredible location, we're doing very high Middle Eastern gastronomy," he enthuses. "With French techniques, it's very interesting as a job." Much of his cooking inevitably caters to the one percent—the tasting menu at Le Louis XV clocks in at \$410 a head while one of his most famous signature dishes pairs rockfish jelly with a generous dollop of gold caviar.

But followers of Ducasse's food empire have noticed a shift in recent years to more accessible eateries. New openings such as Spoon 2 in Paris, Omer in Monaco—even the Singapore and Bangkok ventures—are more brasserie than haute cuisine. With rising anger about inequality in the West, is Ducasse looking to democratize his cooking? He rejects this idea and says it's more down to business realities—the sheer amount of time and effort required for the top-end restaurants cannot be replicated ad hoc. He draws on a fashion metaphor: "You cannot just multiply haute couture, each time it requires special creations, it's the same with culinary creations and space," he says. Those restaurants that bear the full name—like Macau's Alain Ducasse at Morpheus—are what he devotes the most energy to. He explains: "Everything else is pret-a-porter." — AFP



Chef Alain Ducasse (right) talking with chef Pierre Marty at his restaurant Alain Ducasse at the Morpheus hotel in Macau.

## Family of Syrian toddler washed ashore objects to new film

Family members have sharply denounced a new film about the young Syrian boy who became a symbol of Europe's migration crisis after wrenching photos emerged of his lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach. "I'm really heartbroken right now," Tima Kurdi, an aunt of little Alan Kurdi, told the CBC network. She lives in Port Coquillam, near Vancouver in western Canada. "It's unacceptable." The boy perished in 2015 along with several other family members fleeing Syria as they tried to reach Greece by boat. The heartbreaking photo of Alan's body, face down on a beach, sparked a deep emotional reaction in Europe, pushing the European Union to temporarily open its borders to Syrian refugees.



Aylan Kurdi's body shocked the world and highlighted the plight of Syrian refugees and the treacherous journey they take to reach safety.

Tima Kurdi told the CBC in an article posted Friday that no one had asked the family's permission to make the new movie about her nephew. She said she had learned about it only from the boy's father, Abdullah Kurdi, who is now living in Iraq. "He called me and he was crying, too," she said. "He said, 'I can't believe somebody is already making a movie.' He said, 'I cannot even imagine that my dead son—two years old who can't even talk—I cannot imagine him coming alive'" on film.

The movie, titled "Aylan Baby (Sea of Death)," is being filmed in Turkey, with a cast including American action film star Steven Seagal, the CBC said. (Initial reporting gave Aylan as the spelling of the boy's name.) Its Turkish writer/director, Omer Sarikaya, has posted photos of the film's poster on social media. He hopes to sell the movie to Netflix. According to Tima Kurdi, who has published a book about her nephew titled "The Boy on the Beach," the family has turned down several proposals for a film. Sarikaya, for his part, told CBC that while the theme of his film resembled the story of the Kurdi family, it was much broader in scope, dealing with the overall refugee crisis. "This will be 'Aylan Baby,' it will not be 'Aylan Kurdi,'" he said, adding that it was now too late to change the title. But one apparently early version of the movie poster seen on Sarikaya's Instagram account shows the famous boy-on-beach photo under the words "Aylan Kurdi (Sea of Death)." — AFP

## Lifestyle | Gossip



# Carly Rae Jepsen: Fame killed my joy for music

**C**arly Rae Jepsen says becoming famous made her lose her love of music. The 33-year-old singer admitted her life changed hugely thanks to her breakthrough single 'Call Me Maybe' - which was released in September 2011 - and eventually performing on stage felt more of a "responsibility" than something pleasurable. She said: "After 'Call Me Maybe', my life was such a blur. "It was a new thing to be recognized everywhere and I started to feel the pressures of the way my life had changed. "You have to be careful, it's easy to lose yourself in fame and be swallowed up by

people's perception of you. I was losing my happiness. "My idea of joy - singing on stage - started to feel like a great responsibility." Carly decided to take a step back and figure out what mattered, as well as finding her passion again. She added to Q magazine: "That's why I took so much time making [2015 album] 'Emotion'. "I wanted to get back to what connected me to music in the first place. "I've learned to seclude myself with the people that know me so I can keep the authentic relationships going that matter in my life." The 'I Really Like You' hit-maker competed on 'Canadian Idol' in 2007 and came

third but thinks it was a "blessing in disguise" that she didn't win. She said: "When I landed third in 'Canadian Idol', it was a blessing in disguise - I could keep exploring my career as a songwriter, not just an artist. "I told my parents I was going to take a stab at this career and I was ready to enjoy it whether I succeeded or I failed. It was going to be an adventure to try and I've never stopped trying since."

## Fun Lovin' Criminals' Brian 'Fast' Leiser tried to get Plan B on reggae project

**F**un Lovin' Criminals' Brian 'Fast' Leiser tried to get Plan B to contribute to his Prince-inspired 'Purple Reggae' album by his side project Radio Riddler - but his management said no. The 'Scooby Snacks' hitmaker teamed up with his bandmate Frank Benbini and guests including Sinead O'Connor - who had a hit with Prince's song 'Nothing Compares 2 U' in 1990 - UB40's Ali Campbell, Deborah Bonham (sister of Led Zeppelin's late John Bonham) and Beverley Knight on the LP in 2014, which featured the late singer's 'Purple Rain' tracks with a Jamaican twist. He asked the 'She Said' rapper - whose real name is Ben Drew - to feature on a track, but his management had the final say and ended up turning down the offer. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, Brian recalled: "We tried to get Plan B to sing on something. "You think Ben is a really cool guy. "But it went through his manager so we couldn't do it. "The manager and the label made the decision." In 2010, Fun Lovin' Criminals recorded a special series of songs with UK hip-hop star Roots Manuva. 'Criminal Manuvas' was recorded at Maida Vale studios for BBC Radio 6 Music and saw the band give their hits the reggae treatment. Brian is also a huge fan of UK rappers, including Skepta, Stormzy and Wiley. And speaking on whether he'd like to work with any of them, he said: "There is only one UK rapper that we've worked with and he's called Roots Manuva, we couldn't say enough amazing things about him. "Any of these UK rappers, Skepta, Stormzy, Wiley, I love them all." But again, he says it's a shame that everything has to go through labels and managers these days. Meanwhile, Brian - who with Fun Lovin' Criminals played one of the last shows at Manchester's iconic Hacienda nightclub, which was synonymous with the acid house era throughout the 80s and much of the 90s, until it closed in 1997 - has admitted he was "shocked" by Noel Gallagher's latest disco song 'Black Star Dancing' and hasn't ruled out collaborating with the former Oasis star. He said: "That new song 'Black Star Dancing' is great. "I was really surprised. "We



always call him 'N-O-E-L. Not to mock him. "But we were shocked. "It gets to the chorus and it's like, OK, it's a Manchester kinda thing." US outfit Fun Lovin' Criminals - completed by frontman Huey Morgan - launched in 1993, just as Britpop emerged and they played shows with Oasis back in the day when they attempted to win over US audiences. Brian admitted he is a huge fan of Noel, but hasn't got much time for his sibling and bandmate Liam Gallagher. He said: "He's (Noel) another guy who we respect, his brother (Liam) not so much, he's a great songwriter. "He's the nicest guy. "We did some shows with Oasis in the States and he was always really cool." Asked whether he would do a collaboration with Noel, Brian admitted: "I don't know. The couple times we've collaborated with people it's always been really special in the studio. "When it comes to dealing with their managers they all back away and let the managers deal with it - and that's a sucker move." Fun Lovin' Criminals play the Cool Britannia Festival on Sunday 1st September 2019.

## Liam Gallagher has given up marijuana

**L**iam Gallagher has given up marijuana. The 46-year-old singer - who will perform on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury on Saturday night - stopped smoking the drug after a "mad one" on holiday that left him taking refuge in a cupboard away from his family. He said: "I don't smoke weed any more. "Lennon's bang into [Fat White Family] and he was playing this tune by them on holiday. "I had a bit of weed, because I was on holiday, and it was strong. "You know when you have to sneak off because you're having a mad one? That was me. "I had to go and have a word with myself in a cupboard and all I could hear was this song by Fat White Family that sounded like 'Nightclubbing' by Iggy Pop on a loop, for about an hour. It was top." The 'Shockwave' hitmaker also gave up eating oysters after a heavy night in a hotel room with his Oasis bandmates in Philadelphia a long time ago, that saw them devour 150 of the delicacies. He recalled: "Me, Whitey and Guigs got really stoned and kept ordering trays of them. "It was really good weed. All night we were talking about going to the beach in the morning. "I think that's why we kept ordering oysters. "Then Whitey said, 'Er, there's no beach in Philadelphia'. I went over to the window, pulled back the curtain to show them the sea ... it was an air-conditioning unit in a brick wall." These days, Liam is an early riser and feels "overjoyed" if he has a hangover from drinking too much alcohol because he finds it much easier to recover from than taking drugs. He told Q magazine: "As long as there are no drugs involved, I am happy. "If I wake up and there's been no snifferoo I am overjoyed with a booze hangover. "I have to clear the whole week otherwise and I can't be doing that."



## Chemical Brothers' secret to Glastonbury success

**C**hemical Brothers have a secret weapon to ensure a successful Glastonbury set tonight. Founding member Ed Simons watched the dance act from the audience during his hiatus from touring and Tom Rowlands believes his gap year has helped them to be better than ever. The Chemical Brothers headlined the Other Stage in 2015 but Tom was joined by video designer Adam Smith as Ed was taking time off to write his dissertation for his master's degree. Tom told the Daily Star newspaper: "Annoyingly now he often interjects with, 'Well as I'm the only person who's seen The Chemical Brothers live, I can tell you that doesn't work.' "It was hard him not being there, but I think in the long run it's good because it sorta renewed his enthusiasm for what we get to do." Their current album 'No Geography' features the vocals of Aurora and they credit Glastonbury for bringing them together with the singer. Ed said: "When Glastonbury's on, it's on the TV the whole weekend. I think Tom was having his tea with his children and saw her broadcast and was really captured by her charisma and her voice. "So it tunneled from there really, approaching someone that we hadn't met or worked with before. I think it was a fortuitous watching of the TV when she was playing at Glasto." Chemical Brothers will headline The Other Stage at Glastonbury. Meanwhile, Chemical Brothers recently insisted there's nowhere more "exciting" to play than Glastonbury. The 'Galvanize' hitmakers had a "religious experience" when they saw Orbital perform at the festival in 1994, and after being booked for their 12th appearance this summer, the duo enjoy the gig just as much as they did the first time. Ed said: "We both had a religious experience [seeing Orbital]. I still get tingly when I think about it. We wanted to do that. "It's still to be the most exciting concert you can play." The pair broke records in 2000 by performing in front of what was believed to be the largest crowd in the festival's history but can barely remember the show, so try now to take in the moments much more. Tom told Q magazine: "Early on you think everything's going to last forever, whereas now you think, realistically, how many more times are we going to get to do this amazing thing? You become more aware of it."

## STORMZY'S GLASTONBURY VEST DESIGNED BY BANKSY

**S**tormzy's Glastonbury stab-proof vest was designed by Banksy. The illusive artist has revealed he crafted the custom outfit for the 'Big For Your Boots' hitmaker's iconic set at the Somerset music festival on Friday night. Banksy shared on Instagram: "I made a custom stab-proof vest and thought - who could possibly wear this? Stormzy at Glastonbury." And the 25-year-old rapper told the artist he'd "never know what this meant to him". He added: "You'll never know what this means to me. I feel like I am dreaming this is all a dream. Honored, grateful, thank you, I don't have any words for this. Tears of joy (sic)" Stormzy also took to his own Instagram account to thank Banksy for his work. He wrote: "Last night I headlined Glastonbury in a stab-proof vest custom made by the greatest, most iconic living artist on planet earth, the one and only BANKSY. (sic)" Stormzy had previously branded his headline set as the "greatest night of his entire life" as he took to the famous Pyramid Stage, becoming the first British rapper to headline. Addressing the crowd, he told them: "Glastonbury 2019, what we saying tonight? This is the greatest night of my entire life. Who's got energy today?" Stormzy opened his set with 'Know Me From', before segueing into 'First Things First' and 'One Take Freestyle'. The rapper also took the time to thank some of his own heroes and also praise all the new talent in the grime industry that was coming up alongside him including Krept & Konan, Yungen and Stefflon Don. He said: "Glastonbury, this is the most iconic night of my life. I feel like the 25 years of my life has led up to this moment right here. There's so many people that have inspired me - from Wiley, Skepta, Dizzee Rascal, Giggs, Ghetts, Tinie Tempah, Lethal Bizzle ... [And] there's so many legends, there's so many of us coming through right now."



## Gallagher pays tribute to Flint at Glastonbury

**L**iam Gallagher paid tribute to The Prodigy's Keith Flint during his Glastonbury performance on Saturday. The 46-year-old rock star hailed Flint - who committed suicide in March - prior to performing 'Champagne Supernova' on the iconic Pyramid stage at the festival. Liam told the crowd: "Right you've been amazing. This is the last song, I want to dedicate it to the one and only Keith Flint. 'Champagne Supernova'. Look after yourselves, have a good night." Liam's performance also featured some of his new material, including 'The River', as well as some of Oasis' best-known hits. What's more, the outspoken star pledged to return to the festival in 2020. Liam's Glastonbury gig came shortly after he revealed he has given up marijuana. The singer stopped smoking the drug after a "mad one" on holiday that left him taking refuge in a cupboard away from his family. He said: "I don't smoke weed any more. "[His son] Lennon's bang into [Fat White Family] and he was playing this tune by them on holiday. "I had a bit of weed, because I was on holiday, and it was strong. "You know when you have to sneak off because you're having a mad one? That was me. "I had to go and have a word with myself in a cupboard and all I could hear was this song by Fat White Family that sounded like 'Nightclubbing' by Iggy Pop on a loop, for about an hour. It was top."



## The Vengaboys release unplugged hits to mark 20th anniversary

**T**he Vengaboys have recorded stripped-back versions of two of their biggest hits to make their 20th anniversary. The 90s Dutch Eurodance group - comprised of Kim Sasabone, Denise Post-van Rijswijk, Robin Pors and Donny Latupeirissa - recorded an acoustic version of 'Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom!!' backstage in their dressing room on tour in Australian last year and an unplugged rendition of 'We're Going To Ibiza!' from their hotel room at Pikes Hotel in Ibiza. There will be some of their other hits on the way, but in the meantime, they have released the two 1999 hits for the two-decade milestone. The band said: "At one of our gigs the audience kept on asking for an encore. "So we decided - on the spot - to answer their cries with acoustic versions of some of our songs, and they loved it! "Now we recorded a bunch of those versions - some backstage, some in hotel rooms. "Two of those are being released exactly 20 years after

they hit number one around The World." The acoustic release comes after the group admitted they "focus on their old hits" rather than new songs because they just want to please their fans. The foursome get such a huge buzz from seeing the way their fans react to the dance hits that they are shelving plans for new material for now. Kim said: "Well, we go to the studio sometimes. Sometimes we don't; sometimes we do. We fool around and do some new stuff, but it never really gets to something that's perfect. So that's why we keep on focusing on those old hits because we noticed, after performing for all these years, like, since we've come back in 2006, we released a couple of songs, but people wanna hear mainly our old songs. So the last couple of years, we are more focusing on that." 'The Vengaboys Hit 20! Unplugged #1's' is out now.



Lifestyle | Gossip

# STEVENS ENJOYED WORKING WITH HAWLEY ON FEATURE FILM



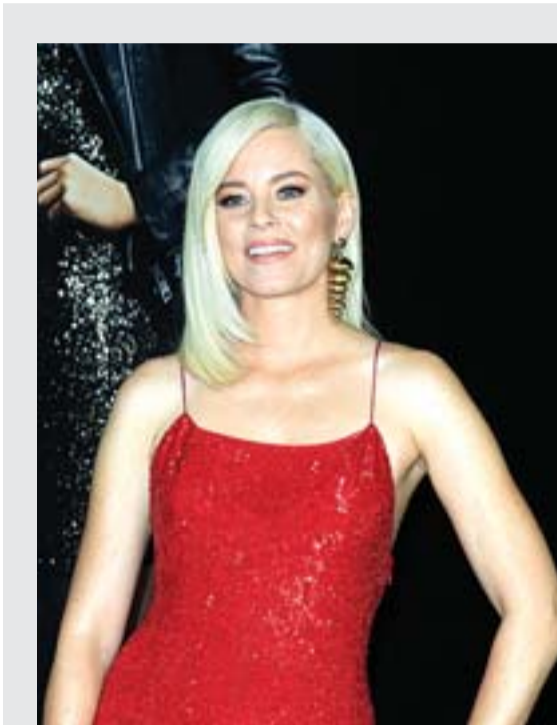
**D**an Stevens enjoyed working with Noah Hawley again on 'Lucy in the Sky'. The pair previously worked together on Hawley's show 'Legion' - which starred Stevens as the titular comic book character across all three seasons of the program - and they have crossed paths again on the upcoming big screen drama. Opening up on the experience, Stevens told Collider: "It was very different. It stars Natalie Portman, Jon Hamm, Zazie Beetz, and myself, and it has a unique Noah Hawley style to its storytelling, too. "It's not the full-blown psychedelic trip that 'Legion' is, but there are elements of that. It's been

great. Just watching somebody direct their first feature is a real privilege, as is watching somebody go from one kind of storytelling to another. "And we're definitely talking about other things that we'll do together. Whether it will be quite as much fun as 'Legion', I don't know. I'm not sure what could be. But I'm incredibly grateful to him for this amazing three years, and getting to work with a really special bunch of people." The movie follows an astronaut Lucy Cola (Portman) returning to Earth after a lengthy mission as she begins an affair with fellow astronaut Mark Goodwin (Hamm). She heads into a downward spiral as Lucy loses her connec-

tion to her family, and it takes another turn when her lover begins another affair with a trainee. Meanwhile Stevens, 36, has loved his time working with Hawley, and he admitted their experience on 'Legion' has prepared him for "a lot of new challenges". He added: "I would say massively. Noah promised me something weird and beautiful, and also something that would be challenging and never boring, and he's fulfilled on absolutely every one of those counts. It's been extraordinary. It's left me very open to a lot of new challenges."

## Julianne Moore: I'm in a new phase of my career

**J**ulianne Moore thinks she's in a new phase on her career. The 58-year-old actress is currently combining performing with producing, meaning she's adopted a different approach towards her own career. She explained: "I've always felt that it's my responsibility to find [great roles], to seek them out, to find the directors I want to work with. Right now, for the first time, I'm starting to develop material for myself." Asked when she started to have creative control over her career, Julianne told Variety: "I would like to think that there's sort of a trajectory that we can all follow, where you're like, 'Now it's okay.' "I don't know that any of us feels that way. I think particularly when you're a freelancer, as all of us are, you really just go from job to job. "Once a job finishes, you feel like you're kind of back at zero. Now it's time to find something else and work on that." Meanwhile, Julianne recently claimed sex in film is too often depicted as just being for "young people". The Hollywood star doesn't feel there are "whole lot" of "relationship-driven" movies in cinemas at the moment and that when sex is explored in a film, the focus is "usually" on younger characters. She said: "They don't show older men either. I mean usually when you think of movies and an exploration of that [sex] it's usually with young people and it's a romantic comedy. "There's not actually a whole lot of relationship driven films right now, when you think the biggest movies are 'The Avengers'. I don't think there's a real exploration of romantic or sexual love in any of those."



## Noomi Rapace: It was a no-brainer doing The Captor

**N**oomi Rapace said it was a "no-brainer" doing 'The Captor' because she wanted to work with Ethan Hawke and move away from action. The 'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' star plays Bianca Lind alongside Ethan's Kaj Hansson / Lars Nyström in the heist movie (formerly known as 'Stockholm'), written and directed by Born To Be Blue's Robert Budreau, which is partly inspired by Daniel Lang's 1974 New Yorker article 'The Bank Drama'. And the 39-year-old Swedish star has admitted she was keen to act in an "intimate" movie. Speaking on The Empire Film Podcast, she said: "I've wanted to move away from action films and fight sequences and stunts. "I wanted to do something intimate and like a proper drama with characters and explore a relationship and this felt like the perfect little gift given to me. "It was like six, seven weeks in Toronto in a bank and it was very creative, very intense..." On her co-star's keenness to learn her native language for the

film set in the Swedish city, she said: "It was a bit weird. I was sitting with Ethan Hawke in his trailer. "He was like, 'How do you say the city name?' "He was like we were practicing some Swedish actually." "He was hilarious because it's always the other way around, right? "You know, Swede's trying to get rid of their accents and stuff like that. "It's based on this article in The New Yorker so it's not straight after the main events." And on always wanting to be in a movie with the 49-year-old Hollywood star, she said: "I wanted to work with Ethan, so it was a no-brainer." Noomi - who shot to fame as Lisbeth Salander in the Swedish film adaptations of 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo', 'The Girl Who Played with Fire' and 'The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest' - became "fond" of her character in the movie. She added: "It's a very complex character and I was very fond of her."

## Banks wanted Charlie's Angels stars to feel 'comfortable'

**E**lizabeth Banks wanted the stars of 'Charlie's Angels' to feel "awesome and comfortable" with what they wore in the new movie. The 45-year-old director worked with the likes of Kristen Stewart and Naomi Scott on the much-anticipated film, and she's insisted that the new movie won't be overly-sexualized. Asked whether she incorporated the women's sexuality into this reboot, Elizabeth told Collider: "We don't really - we play with that trope and then we dismiss it pretty early on in the movie. The women in this film use their brains and their wits. "We had a mantra which was we are going to fight smarter, not harder. That was how we approached most of the action sequences in the movie. "The women in the film, for instance, I had another mantra on set which was everybody gets to wear what they feel awesome and comfortable wearing and what they want to strut around in in this movie. Whatever makes her feel best coming to set. That was the attitude we had about how we shot the film." Elizabeth also explained that the message of the movie focused on "women working together and solving a crime story". She said: "There's not a big romance particularly in the movie - we have a little romance in the movie. But the movie is really about the women working together and solving a crime story and helping Naomi Scott's character take down a big corporation."



## Arterton and Debicki 'adore' each other

**G**emma Arterton and Elizabeth Debicki "built" even more on the "chemistry" they already shared on the set of 'Vita and Virginia'. The actresses play titular author Virginia Woolf and socialite Vita Sackville-West respectively, who have an explosive affair in the biopic, and the pair already "adored" each other as friends in real life before they started working on the film, which only strengthened their bond further. Praising her co-star's "vivid and powerful" performance, Elizabeth, 28, said: "She [Gemma] is a sublime actress and absolutely glorious woman. "Her Vita is so vivid and powerful. "As Virginia I only had to look at her and feel awe." Whilst Gemma, 33, added to DIVA magazine: "Vita and Virginia were polar opposites, which is why I believe they were so drawn to one another. "Vita confident and physical, Virginia awkward and intellectual. "Elizabeth and I are quite different ourselves, but adore each other, so I suppose our chemistry was already there for us to build on." The pair are involved in such an intense on-screen affair and Gemma said if Vita and Virginia were alive now, her alter ego would be "obsessing" over people not reading her messages on WhatsApp. She said: "If they were alive now, they'd be prolific WhatsAppers. Virginia would be obsessing over the blue ticks!" Gemma recently admitted she felt "kind of promiscuous" reading the screenplay, which is largely based on the real life letters of the two lovers. She said: "I think what anchored me was something I connected with at the time of reading the screenplay: I felt kind of promiscuous, and that I couldn't give my heart away. For me, the key was her line: 'If you leave me adrift, I will hurt you.'"

## Wahlberg to replace Evans in Infinite



**M**ark Wahlberg is set to take over Chris Evans' role in 'Infinite'. Chris signed up to the picture in February but has had to pull out due to scheduling issues and Mark is being lined up to take his place in the mystery film helmed by Antoine Fuqua for Paramount Pictures and penned by John Lee Hancock and Ian Shorr who are adapting D. Eric Maikranz's 2009 novel, 'The Reincarnationist Papers'. The project is being produced by Lorenzo di Bonaventura and Mark Vahradian at Di Bonaventura Pictures, and John Zaorimzy. Rafi Crohn is the executive producer. The original novel introduces readers to the Cognomina, a secret society of people who possess total recall of their past lives and a troubled young man who becomes haunted by memories of two past lives after joining their ranks. The movie is slated for release on August 7, 2020. Meanwhile, it was revealed in May that Mark has joined 'Scoob'. The 'Daddy's Home 2' star will voice superhero Blue Falcon in the new Warner Bros. animated Scooby-Doo movie based on the iconic children's cartoon. This comes after 'Hangover' actor Ken Jeong and Kiersey Clemons were confirmed to portray Dymonutt, Dog Wonder, a pooch with mechanical robot parts, and Dee Dee Sykes, who was one of the smartest members of Captain Caveman's Teen Angels group. Frank Welker will voice the titular pooch, after voicing crime-solving Mystery Inc. gang character Fred Jones since the animated comedy TV series 'Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!' made its debut in 1969. Instead, Zac Efron will voice Fred for the forthcoming film and Amanda Seyfried will be Daphne Blake, while Will Forte will play Shaggy Rogers. The Mystery Inc. gang - who aim to solve crimes alongside their canine companion Scooby - will be completed by Gina Rodriguez as Velma Dinkley. The hotly-anticipated movie is set to be released in May 2020 and will be the first time Scooby has hit the big screen since 2004's 'Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed', which followed on from 2002's 'Scooby-Doo'.



## DAUBERMAN TEASES POTENTIAL 'IT' SPIN-OFF MOVIES

**G**ary Dauberman says there could be potential 'It' spin-off movies. The screenwriter - who is responsible for penning some of the biggest hits in the Conjuring Universe such as 'Annabelle' and 'The Nun' - co-wrote the 2017 film adaptation of Stephen King's classic horror novel 'It' and its upcoming sequel both of which focus on evil entity Pennywise the Dancing Clown who has inhabited the fic-

tional town of Derry, Maine, since the town was colonized. Now, Gary has revealed that it would be "cool" to tell the antagonist's origin story and thinks there's "room to build on the mythology of It" as he's existed since "the beginning of time". In an interview with website Bloody Disgusting, he said: "I'm sure there's interest but I gotta say, we want to be respectful to the material of the book. I don't think anybody's over there. "In fact I know there's no one over there going, 'Hey, let's definitely do this and we could tell this story of what happened at the beaver trapping camp,' or whatever. "While you could [tell that story], and I think it would be cool, I don't think that's what people are doing currently if that makes sense. You know what I mean? "So yes, to answer your question I think there is room to build on the mythology of It because it has been around from the beginning of time. "But I don't know if there are any plans for it. I was just very happy to tackle the book." Dauberman is also writing the forthcoming big screen adaptation of King's 1975 book 'Salem's Lot' for New Line Cinema and he has vowed to stay as close to the source material from the book as he can. He said: "I like to be as true to the story as I possibly can until it gets a little too unwieldy for a movie. I'm very, very excited to be a part of ['Salem's Lot'] and tackle it." The novel follows a writer who returns to his childhood home, the town of Jerusalem's Lot, where he discovers everyone he used to know is now a vampire. — Bang Showbiz



## Lifestyle | Features



Cuban Delia Barroso, 102, blows out the cake candles during her birthday in Havana. — AFP photos



Cuban Rigoberta Santovenia, 102, walks in the kitchen at her house in Havana.



Cuban Delia Barroso, 102, talks to her great-great-granddaughter during her birthday in Havana.

## Cuban centenarians, cheered on by family, aim for 120

Looking into a mirror, Delia Barrios applies blush and lipstick—she wants to look her best for her 102nd birthday celebration, when she will be surrounded by loved ones. Barrios is one of more than 2,000 people in impoverished Cuba who are 100 years or old—a reality that has piqued the interest of experts, and led some to aim for even longer lives. “I don’t feel like I’m this old. I have a family... that loves me a lot. That helps me to feel good,” said Barrios.

She deftly maneuvers her motorized wheelchair with her seven-year-old great-great-granddaughter Patricia on her lap. Only two candles were placed on her birthday cake, which Barrios blew out to the applause of around 30 guests gathered in the courtyard of a building in Havana’s Playa neighborhood. When she was in her 60s, Barrios was diagnosed with colon cancer and told she had only a year to live.



Cuban Delia Barroso, 102, listens to a singer during her birthday in Havana.



Cuban Delia Barroso (center), 102, talks to family and friends during her birthday in Havana.



Cuban Delia Barroso, 102, applies makeup for her birthday in Havana.



An old man poses for a picture in a road of Havana.

She defied the odds and then left Cuba in 1993, when the island nation was in the throes of a major economic crisis, for the United States, where her son lives. But two decades later, Barrios suffered several falls and her doctor said she could no longer live alone. Barrios—who says she “danced a lot” when she was younger, smoked and drank on occasion—came home and moved in with her granddaughter Yumi, who is now 59.

## ‘120 Club’

There are currently 2,070 centenarians in Cuba out of a population of 11.2 million—in a country where the average life expectancy is 79.5 years. Those figures are comparable to those in many wealthier nations, despite the fact that Cuba’s average public salary is just \$30 a month. The socialist country, where health care is free and doctors are numerous, now has a “120 Club” that encourages residents to aim for that ripe old age. “Biologically, it has been proven that humans can live for 120 to 125 years,” said Raul Rodriguez, a doctor and president of the “120 Club,” which was created in 2003 by Fidel Castro’s personal doctor, Eugenio Selman-Housein.

The club “tries to promote healthy lifestyles for all, because that’s the only way to get to that age,” said Rodriguez. The elderly generally receive a pension of just \$10 a month. But the government has set up cafeterias for those unable to supplement that meager amount with help from family members living abroad. Centenarians are venerated and get special attention. “We try to provide them with specific care,” said Alina Gonzalez Moro from the Center for Research on Longevity (CITED). “All centenarians in Havana can call us if they have a health problem and a specialist in geriatrics will immediately go see the patient.”

## Taking care of family

With a surprisingly smooth face and a mischievous look in her eye, Rigoberta Santovenia turned 102 in January. “I didn’t think I’d get to this age... and here I am,” she said, sitting comfortably on a sofa. Santovenia walks quickly despite her cane, and was still cooking until recently but doctors advised her to stop. She also stopped sewing but can still thread a needle and reads the newspaper every day without using glasses. What’s her secret? “I’m very family-oriented—I love my children, my grand-children, my six great-grandchildren. I’ve never been alone,” she said.

Santovenia lives in the Vedado neighborhood with a grandson and her 68-year-old daughter Regla, who looks after her. “It’s my duty because she’s given me everything,” said Regla. “Now I have to thank her by taking care of her.” And she’s convinced her mother will make it to 120. “Her great-grandmother was a slave. Slave blood seems to be stronger—that’s why she’s kept going so long.”

## ‘Propaganda’ myth?

Experts are a bit baffled as to why Cubans are living so long.

“The family support network tends to help with longevity. We see that in Japan too,” said Robert Young, an expert at the US-based Gerontology Research Group.

Warm weather helps too. But Young says Cuba may not be telling the whole truth—claims that its people are living longer than elsewhere could be “a myth that’s used for ideologic propaganda purposes.” Vincent Geloso, an economics professor at King’s University College in Canada and author of an article on the subject for Oxford University, says Cuban doctors “have targets to reach or they’re punished.”

He suggested statistics could be manipulated as they once were in the Soviet Union, such as recording infant deaths as pre-natal in order to keep down mortality rates, which would reduce the life expectancy figures. However, “even with the worst-case scenario of manipulation, Cuba remains a place with a high life expectancy in relation to revenue.” The conundrum could be explained by one key factor: car ownership is low in Cuba, and hence there are fewer car accidents.

He also cites food rationing during the economic crisis in the 1990s, which helped keep diabetes rates down. “Cuba does very well in keeping people alive a long time,” he said. “But if you offered Cubans a choice between one more year and, for example, higher salaries or a different education, what do you think they would choose?” — AFP



Cuban Delia Barroso (center), 102, talks to family and friends during her birthday in Havana.



Tara Asher sign language interpreter

## Court bans street artists from performing in Rio subway carriages

A Brazilian court has banned street artists in Rio de Janeiro from performing in subway carriages, saying they disturb commuters’ “tranquility”. In a ruling earlier this week, the Rio Court of Justice said a law introduced last year allowing and regulating performance art inside metro and train cars was “unconstitutional”. Federal senator Flavio Bolsonaro—the eldest son of President Jair Bolsonaro—had challenged the legislation. “It is up to each person to choose, according to their values and convictions, what type of art to attend and at what moment,” Judge Heleno Pereira Nunes said in a decision supported by the majority of the court.

Passengers should be able to “exercise their right to tranquility, which is not possible when exposed to shouting and loud noises from musical instruments.” Under the pretext of spreading their “art”, various groups practice political and ideological indoctrination,” the judge wrote. Edson Ramos, representative of the Metro Artists group, told AFP the court’s decision was “arbitrary, without hearing the artists.” The artists are considering lodging an appeal, while others thumbed their nose at the ruling and continued to perform in carriages this week. “We are not there just to pass around a hat, but also to make a positive contribution,” said singer Dener Rangel Alves. “Today a passenger told me that my music soothed his soul.” MetroRio, the private operator of the city’s metro system, told AFP it would comply with the court’s decision. But it promised to expand a program that currently allows registered artists to perform inside three stations. — AFP

## Stormzy makes Glastonbury history, but sign interpreter steals show

British grime star Stormzy made history before throbbing crowds at the Glastonbury music festival this weekend—but it was Tara Asher, his sign language interpreter, who may have stolen the show. Footage of Asher swaying, rocking and mouthing along Stormzy’s performance Friday of the uniquely London style of rap lit up social media and gave new recognition to the art of bringing music to the hard of hearing and the deaf.

“I live in London so I understand what the slang means,” said Asher, who was one of two interpreters working the crowds when Stormzy became the first black UK solo artist to headline the annual event in its 49-year history.

“The struggle with specifically grime music is the speed and also the double meanings and metaphors because, at first listen, you won’t understand the underlying threads throughout the song,” the 30-year-old told AFP at the gig. “So it’s kind of unpicking and unpacking the song and ensuring that you deliver that message that the artist is trying to get across.”

## ‘Feel the vibrations’

Still only 25, Stormzy is a cult figure in the British grime scene, which blends Jamaican dancehall and hip hop for a pulsating, hard-edged sound that first electrified London nearly two decades ago. Stormzy’s biggest hits now appear in TV ads and blast out of cars cruising past

London clubs at night. He is also celebrated for spearheading the fight for racial justice, creating his own scholarship for black students admitted to Cambridge and seeking fair representation of minorities at other universities. But freelance poet Danna Williams, who is in her 30s, never had a chance to experience Stormzy’s magic spell because she cannot hear—until Tara made it happen on a hot, steamy night. “That was amazing,” Williams said, visibly thrilled. “I felt the vibrations. I was watching his attitude and his message. I really, really enjoyed it.”

## ‘Focus on Tara’

Asher performed from a separate stage that drew around 50 people with troubled hearing who trekked to the annual five-day celebration of sun, mud and music on a southwestern England field. She is not terribly pleased about the arrangement because it moves deaf people to the back and away from the dancing throngs. “Actually, in America they are much more advanced than us, (deaf people) have much more of a legal standing,” said Asher. “We would love to be a bit closer because deaf people would love to be in the crowd and experience that,” she observed.

“But it’s better than nothing.” Fans like Zoe McWhinney, a 22-year-old theatre student, were still thrilled about the whole thing. “You can see the interpreter, but you also have the screen in the background and

so it’s quite easy to actually watch both at the same time,” McWhinneys said. “My focus was mainly on Tara and that’s the reason why I enjoyed it so much.”

## ‘Guessing game’

Behind all the energy and enthusiasm of Asher’s interpretation of street music lie years of hard work and study that few others have dared do. Asher said it takes around seven years to become a qualified sign language interpreter. She has been a professional for 11 years now and doing music festivals for the past four. “It’s very specialist. It’s very niche. It’s not something every sign language interpreter would do—and it’s not something every sign language interpreter can do,” Asher said. She went into Friday night having learned 21 of Stormzy’s songs.

But every show is different and Asher just has to go with the flow when artists take their songs in a new direction or play something completely new. “The biggest issues that we have is that I don’t know what they’re going to do, I don’t get a set list so it’s a guessing game,” said Asher. The main thing, she continued, is to study the performer and have a feel for how the show will go. “Preparation in terms of music interpretation is so important,” Asher said. — AFP



# Locked up for being different: Switzerland's 'dark chapter'

**GENEVA:** A pregnant teenage runaway, a former foster care child, an adolescent boy raped by priests: for decades, these were the kinds of people Switzerland locked up as "undesirables". There was no trial, no appeal and officials running the "administrative detention" centres decided when people should be released. Many suffered physical and sexual abuse and some were even sterilized. Some 60,000 people considered "deviant" by the Swiss authorities were locked up over the course of the 20th century.

The practice peaked in Switzerland in the 1930s but was still legal as late as 1981. "It is a dark chapter, a chapter that cannot be justified," said Markus Notter, president of a commission of experts - the CIE - appointed by the government in 2014 to investigate the scandal. It has been releasing the results of its research since the beginning of this year, with a final report due out in September. The commission's findings show how hundreds of detention centres around the country used arbitrary powers as an instrument of social control, to enforce social norms.

Hubert Meyer, now 72, struggles to tell his story. As a child he was repeatedly raped by priests. Later, as a teenager, he was placed in administrative detention on several occasions, as his "effeminate" behavior was considered inappropriate. "They said that I naturally lacked virility and was unstable," he told AFP. After he was caught masturbating, he was sent to a closed psychiatric unit and given drugs to "cure" him.

Administrative detention affected people over the age of 16, and most of those held under the system were adults, according to the CIE. Switzerland has already acknowledged the wrongs done to many children caught up in a similar system from the mid-19th century to as late as the early 1980s. They were removed from families considered to be lacking "traditional social and moral values". What both policies had in common was that they tended to target poor communities.

There was a certain disdain felt towards the lower classes, said CIE vice president Anne-Francoise Praz. They were "considered partly responsible for their problems", she explained. In legal texts cited by the CIE, detentions were justified with expressions such as "giving oneself over to misbehavior or



**CAZIS, Switzerland:** This handout picture shows archeologists working on graves, part of a total of 103 graves dating from the 19th and 20th centuries discovered during the construction of the Realta new penitentiary building. — AFP

laziness" or simply "alcoholic". Once labelled, people were sent to one of 648 forced labor, education or correctional centres according to a CIE count - and often more than once. Psychiatric and prison centres were also used.

Some suffered sexual abuse or beatings and some were even sterilized, according to the findings of the CIE. A study in May revealed that some skeletal remains exhumed near a correctional centre in eastern Switzerland had broken ribs - suggesting abuse.

The centres were also used as a source of unpaid labor. Daniel Cevey, 76, told AFP he spent his childhood in foster care, and was later placed in administrative detention. He never found out why. He was forced to do farm work like picking potatoes. "We were never paid," he said. "All those years, we went to the fields instead of

going to school." Many of those detained were sucked into the system at a young age. Ursula Biondi had a rough childhood with a violent father, she told AFP. Then, aged just 15, she was repeatedly raped by the father of the family where she worked as a nanny.

When she was 17, she fell in love and the couple ran away to Italy. But after she became pregnant, she was forced back to Switzerland and in 1966 was detained for a year at a women's prison in the central town of Hindelbank. She gave birth to her son in prison and he was immediately taken away from her. It took months of fighting to get him back, she said.

The experience "traumatized me for life," said Biondi, now 69. For decades she was silent about her ordeals, but then she started campaigning - and for the past 20 years she has been fighting to get justice for

victims of the system. And she can celebrate several victories. In 2010, the justice ministry presented an official state apology to former detainees. In 2014, parliament acknowledged for the first time that those detained had done nothing wrong and had suffered an injustice.

Former detainees each received compensation of 25,000 Swiss francs (\$26,000). For many this is far too little. A lot of former detainees live living in poverty: As well as the trauma they suffered, their detention robbed them of a proper education or training, making it harder to find work. "For those still living in precarity, this is a slap in the face," Biondi said of the compensation. And those responsible "have never faced any legal consequences", lamented Cevey. "It is a scandal that is continuing." — AFP

## Assembly position on Palestine...

Continued from Page 1

"The Zionist entity wants us to forget about this issue. But this will never happen. It is true that the

## Tunisia player shining a path...

Continued from Page 1

It's very tough to be a pro when you come from Tunisia, but I'm trying to give the message that if I can do it they can do it. I can say that from my country there is a lot of talent and I hope that I can give my experiences to others."

Jabeur, whose favorite growing up was Andy Roddick because "he was good looking and funny" has a tenacious game suited to grass and wears a smile on the tennis court. "When I smile I play my best tennis," she said. Earlier this week she bamboozled British number one and former Wimbledon semi-finalist Johanna Konta at the Eastbourne tournament on her way to the semifinals where she had to withdraw with an ankle injury before playing Angelique Kerber.

Considering there are no grass courts in Tunisia and

military balance is not in our favor for the time being, but in line with Islamic sharia, we learn that our occupied Arab and Islamic territories will be liberated sooner or later. As Muslims, we are well aware of this undeniable promise," Ghanem said. The municipality of Silvit in the West Bank on Thursday staged a rally and hoisted the Kuwaiti flag side by side with the Palestinian flag on a street named after Marzouq Al-Ghanem. The good gesture is an expression of gratitude to Kuwait for its constant support of the Palestinian cause. — KUNA

she once won the French Open junior title on clay, it is perhaps surprising she enjoys the lawns, although she says her varied game allows her to be creative. "The only grass in Tunisia is in the football stadium," she joked. "But I love it, it gives me chances with my slice and drop shots and my ball goes very good and smooth with grass."

A confessed lover of strawberries and cream she won her first match at Wimbledon last year before losing a tight three-setter to Katerina Siniakova. "I was always at Roehampton trying in qualifiers and the first time I actually got to Wimbledon (in 2017) I felt like I had really earned it. I was in the locker room thinking what an amazing place this is."

Jabeur, who last year became the first Arab to reach a WTA final at the Kremlin Cup, hopes one day to start an academy for young Tunisians with a dream to play tennis. "There were many difficulties, the structure is bad and we don't have the knowledge, but thank God I had a small talent and had the right people to show me the path," she said. "I remember when I was a kid and I said I wanted to win the French Open when I grow up, people just laughed. I hope children can watch me and think it's possible." — Reuters

Pompeo told reporters shortly before departing South Korea that a fresh round of talks will likely happen "sometime in July" and the North's negotiators would be foreign ministry diplomats. Pompeo made clear in a tweet later that the United States believed that sanctions put in place under UN Security Council resolutions needed to remain in place as talks moved forward. "We remain ready to engage (North Korea) in negotiations, but remain firm on the implementation of UNSCRs ahead of denuclearization," he said.

Shin Beom-chul, a senior fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul, said the meeting between the two leaders was important in reviving working-level talks. "But the North wouldn't easily change its stance, even though Trump has effectively responded to the so-called top-down approach cherished by Kim," he said. Trump said he had "plenty of time" and was in "no rush" to reach a deal. "We want to get it right," he said.

North Korea has pursued nuclear and missile programs for years in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, and easing tensions with North Korea is one of the US president's top foreign policy priorities. The DMZ was set up after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a truce, leaving North Korea and the United States still technically at war.

Soo Kim, a former CIA analyst now with RAND Corporation, said the North's "gravitational force" has pulled Trump across the DMZ, calling it an "alluring elixir of wile, threatening rhetoric, stalling, and dangling of the remote possibility of resuming dialogue". Such a meeting has long been sought by the North, but "Kim didn't have to lift a finger to get Trump to cross the DMZ", she added. "It was, in all appearances, by Trump's volition." "This was a great day," the US president said before flying out on Air Force One. "This was a very legendary, very historic day." — Agencies

## US envoys on hand as Israel digs...

Continued from Page 1

Israel captured Silwan and neighboring districts in the 1967 conflict, annexed and settled them, angering foreign powers that back the Palestinians' goal of building a capital there for a future state taking in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Some people, not necessarily friends of ours, are obsessing about my being here," Friedman said at the ceremony, adding the excavation project uncovered "the truth, whether you believe or not ... the truth is the only foundation upon which peace will come to this area".

After his speech, Friedman, along with Greenblatt, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife Sara and donors to the project, wielded hammers to break through a wall and open the subterranean path to the holy site revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. In a statement, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said it "views the American attendance at and celebration of the Judaization activities in occupied East Jerusalem as hostile acts against the Palestinians". "The administration of President Donald Trump proves day by day its ... unlimited affiliation to the colonial settlement project led by the extremist right in the state of the occupation (Israel)," it said.

Emek Shaveh, an Israeli group that opposes the "politicization" of archaeology, also condemned the planned American presence, calling it "a political act which is the closest the US will have come to recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Old City basin of Jerusalem".

Greenblatt dismissed accusations the event was a fur-

ther acknowledgement of Israeli sovereignty over east Jerusalem. The Palestinian Authority "claims our attendance at this historic event supports 'Judaization' of Jerusalem/is an act of hostility vs. Palestinians. Ludicrous," he wrote on Twitter. "We can't 'Judaize' what history/archaeology show. We can acknowledge it & you can stop pretending it isn't true! Peace can only be built on truth."

Breaking with long-standing US policy and international consensus, US President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in Dec 2017. He left open the possibility of a future Palestinian foothold there under a negotiated peace deal. Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have been stalled since 2014 and the future of Jerusalem has long been at the centre of the Middle East conflict.

The recognition has prompted the Palestinians to snub a Trump administration they accuse of bias on behalf of Israel, which counts all of the city holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims as its indivisible capital - a status not recognized abroad. Palestinian officials boycotted a US-led conference in Bahrain last week which Washington said was meant to lay the economic foundations for peace with Israel.

Friedman, asked in a Jerusalem Post interview published yesterday if he saw Israel one day agreeing to Palestinian control of Silwan as part of a peace deal, said: "It would be akin to America returning the Statue of Liberty." In addition to Jerusalem, Palestinians fret that Washington will give a green light to a possible move by Israel to annex Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Greenblatt told a Jerusalem conference sponsored by the conservative Israel Hayom conference last week that diplomatic progress might be possible "if people stop pretending (Israeli) settlements - or what I like to call neighborhoods and cities - are the reason for the lack of peace". — Agencies

## Mass protests for civilian rule...

Continued from Page 1

Police also fired tear gas at protesters in the northern Khartoum district of Bahri and in Mamura and Arkweit, in the capital's east, as thousands of protesters chanted "Civilian rule! Civilian rule!", witnesses said.

Elsewhere, security forces used tear gas to disperse protesters in the capital's twin city of Omdurman and the eastern town of Gadaref. The latest demonstrations come at a time when Ethiopia and the African Union (AU) are jointly mediating between the protesters and generals. The European Union, several Western nations and rights groups called on the generals to avoid any violence.

Men and women flashing victory signs and carrying Sudanese flags flooded the streets of Al-Sahafa neighborhood of Khartoum. "We are here for the martyrs of the (June 3) sit-in. We want a civilian state that guarantees our freedom. We want to get rid of military dictatorship," said Zeinab, 23, as onlookers cheered and motorists honked horns. "No one gave a mandate to the military council, all the people are against the council," said another protester who shouted out: "I'm the next martyr."

Marchers also passed by the homes of those killed on June 3. Others chanting "Blood for blood, we don't want compensation" took to the streets of the Jabra district, while rallies were also under way in other neighborhoods of the capital. On the road to airport, security forces moved to block off crowds of demon-

strators, an AFP correspondent reported. Thousands also protested in the cities of Port Sudan, Al-Obied, Madani and Khasma el-Girba, witnesses said.

The feared paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were deployed in pick-up trucks mounted with machineguns in several Khartoum squares and many shops stayed shut. RSF chief General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo had warned he would not tolerate any "vandalism" at the protests. "There are vandals, there are people who have an agenda, a hidden agenda, we don't want problems," Dagalo, who is also the ruling military council's deputy chief, said Saturday.

In the run-up to the protest many Sudanese said they feared new violence. "I expect large numbers... and it's very possible that security forces will use force," said Mustafa, 25. Another demonstrator, Talal, 29, said: "Even if only a few rallies take place in Khartoum, they will break the barrier of fear and more people will take to the streets" in coming days.

About 130 people have been killed since the crack-down, the majority of them on that day, according to doctors close to the alliance. The health ministry says 61 people died nationwide on June 3. The military council insists it did not order the dispersal of the sit-in, but acknowledged "excesses" after orders were given to purge a nearby area allegedly notorious for drug peddling. The council has warned it would hold the alliance "entirely responsible if any soul is lost" in yesterday's protests.

Tensions remain high since the June 3 raid, which followed the collapse of talks over who should lead a new governing body - a civilian or soldier. Ethiopia and the AU have proposed a blueprint for a civilian-majority body, which the generals say could be a basis for resuming talks. Protesters had initially gathered at the military headquarters to seek the army's support in ousting Bashir. — AFP

## After surprise Trump-Kim meet...

Continued from Page 1

but for the good of the entire world," he said. Trump and Kim met for the first time in Singapore in June last year, and agreed to improve relations and work towards the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. But the second summit in Hanoi broke down after the two sides failed to narrow differences between a US demand for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons and a North Korean demand for sanctions relief.

Kim looked relaxed and smiled as he chatted with Trump amidst a throng of press photographers, aides and bodyguards. Trump said the two leaders "moved mountains" to arrange the last-minute meeting. "I was surprised to see you expressed an intent to meet," Kim told Trump, referring to Trump's offer for a meeting in a tweet on Saturday. Trump came to South Korea after attending a Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan. "This is an expression of his willingness to leave behind the past and work towards a new future," Kim said.

Kim said it would be a great honor if Trump visited his capital of Pyongyang. The two agreed to visit each other's country "at the right time," Trump said. "To cross that line was a great honor," Trump said, referring to his brief incursion into the North Korean side of the DMZ. "It's a great day for the world."

But there has been little sign that North Korea and the United States are any closer to narrowing differences on the nuclear issue. US Secretary of State Mike



## Sports

# Yankees survive Red Sox as baseball makes history in London slugfest

## Greinke, Escobar lead Diamondbacks past Giants

**LONDON:** DJ LeMahieu tied career highs with four hits and five RBIs, and Luke Voit added four hits as the New York Yankees outslugged the Boston Red Sox 17-13 on Saturday in London. The two teams brought the fireworks for Major League Baseball's first game in Europe. Taking advantage of a hitter-friendly setup at London Stadium, the offenses combined for 37 hits (19-18 Yankees) in the second highest scoring Red Sox-Yankees game in history. The game lasted 4 hours, 42 minutes-three minutes short of the modern era record for a nine-inning game. Aaron Hicks, Aaron Judge and Brett Gardner all hit two-run homers for the Yankees, who extended their record streak of consecutive games with a homer to 30. New York won for the 12th time in its last 13 games.

### ASTROS 6, MARINERS 5 (10 INNINGS)

Yuli Gurriel delivered his second walk-off hit in as many nights, roping an RBI double to the right-center field gap in the 10th inning to lift Houston over visiting Seattle. Gurriel clubbed a solo homer in the 10th inning on Friday to push Houston to a victory in the series opener. His series-clinching drive Saturday came against Mariners closer Roenis Elias (2-1), who surrendered a leadoff single to Michael Brantley before unleashing a wild pitch that pushed Brantley into scoring position. Gurriel followed by walloping a 2-0 changeup that just eluded Mariners center fielder Mallex Smith. Tim Beckham, Domingo Santana and Daniel Vogelbach all homered for the Mariners.

### DIAMONDBACKS 4, GIANTS 3

Right-hander Zack Greinke continued his mastery of San Francisco, and Eduardo Escobar ended a scoreless duel with a two-out, RBI single in the seventh inning, sending visiting Arizona to victory. Three insurance runs in the eighth gave the Arizona bullpen just enough of a cushion in order to preserve the club's fifth win in six games in San Francisco this season. Blanked for seven innings by Greinke and in the eighth by two relievers, the Giants gave those who stuck around a thrill when Stephen Vogt drilled a three-run home run off Greg Holland to get San Francisco within 4-3. But Holland bounced back to retire the next three batters for his 12th save.

### BLUE JAYS 7, ROYALS 5

Danny Jansen hit a two-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth, and Toronto defeated visiting Kansas City. It was the fourth homer of the season and the first career walk-off homer for Jansen. Scott Barlow (2-3) walked Randal Grichuk to open the bottom of the ninth and struck out pinch hitter Rowdy Tellez before giving up Jansen's homer. Cavan Biggio hit his first career grand slam, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a solo homer for the Blue Jays, who have won the first two games of the four-game series.

### BRAVES 5, METS 4

Nick Markakis and Austin Riley homered on consecutive pitches in the eighth inning for Atlanta, which

took advantage of the latest implosion by New York's bullpen. The Braves have won the first two games of the three-game series against the Mets, who have dropped seven straight. New York has led in the sixth inning or later in five of those losses. Mets relievers have a 7.62 ERA this month, the worst mark in the majors. The comeback made a winner out of Sean Newcomb (2-0), who tossed 1 1/3 scoreless innings of relief. Luke Jackson earned his 13th save by wriggling out of a two-on, none-out jam in the ninth.

### MARLINS 9, PHILLIES 6

Neil Walker homered and drove in three runs as Miami rallied from a five-run deficit and defeated visiting Philadelphia. Walker's two-run home run in the sixth snapped an 0-for-15 slide and began the Marlins' comeback, cutting the Phillies' lead to 6-3. Starlin Castro and JT Riddle hit consecutive doubles that keyed a six-run seventh and put Miami ahead for good. The win was the Marlins' fifth straight over Philadelphia.

### ROCKIES 5, DODGERS 3

Charlie Blackmon homered, Pat Valaika hit two hits, and Colorado beat Los Angeles in Denver. Jon Gray (9-5) struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings in his second straight strong start. He has allowed just three earned runs over his last three outings. Wade Davis pitched the ninth for his 12th save in 14 chances. Los Angeles has lost two straight to Colorado after winning 12 in a row against the Rockies.

### CUBS 6, REDS 0

Javier Baez belted his fifth career grand slam, and Jose Quintana tossed six solid innings to end a nine-start winless stretch as visiting Chicago beat Cincinnati. Tempers flared after Chicago reliever Pedro Strop drilled Yasiel Puig with a 3-0 fastball in the left leg with two outs in the eighth inning. Puig tossed his helmet and walked toward Strop before initially being restrained by Cubs catcher Willson Contreras and first baseman Anthony Rizzo, then by teammate Joey Votto as players from both teams spilled onto the field. Jason Heyward homered for the second time in as many days, and Ohio native Kyle Schwarber ripped an RBI double for the Cubs, who posted just their third win in eight outings against Cincinnati this season.

### PADRES 12, CARDINALS 2

Manny Machado and Frammil Reyes hit two home runs apiece including going back-to-back during a seven-run second inning-to power host San Diego over struggling St. Louis. Machado drove in five runs with his 18th and 19th homers of the season, while Reyes' two homers (Nos. 23 and 24) were both solo shots. Fernando Tatis Jr. later hit a 440-foot solo homer, giving the Padres 16 homers during a four-game winning streak. Meanwhile, the loss was the fifth straight for the Cardinals, who have been outscored 30-10 during the skid.



**LONDON:** Sam Travis #59 of Boston Red Sox watches the last hit of the game fly towards second base during the MLB London Series game between Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees at London Stadium in London, England. — AFP

### BREWERS 3, PIRATES 1

Eric Thames tripled, homered and drove in two runs to help Milwaukee beat visiting Pittsburgh in the second game of their three-game series. Milwaukee right-hander Brandon Woodruff allowed one run and six hits in 7 2/3 innings to become the fifth 10-game winner in the majors, and the first in the National League. Woodruff (10-2) struck out six and didn't walk a batter. Yasmani Grandal had two hits in the leadoff spot for Milwaukee, which had lost three of four and eight of 11.

### TWINS 10, WHITE SOX 3

Nelson Cruz and Max Kepler both homered twice to back six strong innings from Michael Pineda and lift visiting Minnesota over Chicago. Kepler smacked solo home runs in the fifth and seventh innings for the Twins, who got their attack going with Cruz's two-run shot in the first. Miguel Sano added a two-run homer in the eighth before Cruz punctuated the afternoon with a two-run blast in the ninth. Cruz finished 4-for-5 with five RBIs, while Jorge Polanco, Jason Castro and Kepler had two hits apiece.

### RAYS 5, RANGERS 2

Brendan McKay took a perfect game into the sixth inning in his major league debut, and Tampa Bay beat visiting Texas. The Rays' top pitching prospect, McKay went six innings and gave up one hit and a walk while striking out three. McKay (1-0) retired the first 16 Rangers he faced before Danny Santana blooped a single to right in the sixth. After a sacrifice bunt, Shin Soo-Choo drew a walk, but McKay struck out Delino DeShields to end the inning and cap his day.

### TIGERS 7, NATIONALS 5

Miguel Cabrera had three hits, knocked in three runs and scored two more as Detroit snapped an eight-game losing streak, beating visiting Washington. Niko Goodrum drove in two runs, while Nicholas Castellanos and Harold Castro scored two runs apiece for the Tigers. Victor Alcantara (3-1) was credited with the victory despite giving up two runs, one earned, in an inning of relief. Anthony Rendon homered among three hits and drove in two runs for the Nationals, who had won nine of their last 12 games.

### ATHLETICS 4, ANGELS 0

Brett Anderson allowed only two hits in 7 2/3 scoreless innings to lead Oakland over Los Angeles in Anaheim, Calif. Anderson did not allow a runner to reach second base until Luis Rengifo doubled with two out in the eighth, the last batter Anderson faced in the game. Anderson, who threw 63 of his 100 pitches for strikes, allowed only one other hit in the game—a single by Andrelton Simmons leading off the fifth. He walked two and struck out three, improving to 8-5.

### ORIOLES 13, INDIANS 0

Renato Nunez homered twice and drove in four runs, and host Baltimore used a six-run fourth inning to blow out Cleveland. Anthony Santander and Chance Sisco also homered, and Andrew Cashner pitched seven shutout innings for the Orioles, who walloped the Indians by a 13-0 score for the second straight day. Cashner (8-3) had arguably his best outing of the season. The right-hander allowed only three hits and one walk while striking out six. — Reuters

## Injuries hit Crusaders ahead of Super Rugby showdown with Jaguares

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand's Canterbury Crusaders and Argentina's Jaguares are preparing for a Super Rugby showdown that will be a clash of Test-match proportions in Christchurch next Saturday. But the Crusaders' march into the finals may have come at a price, with a question mark over injured All Blacks Ryan Crotty and Scott Barrett.

The Crusaders-aiming for a third consecutive title-were made to fight all the way against the Wellington Hurricanes before prevailing 30-26 in Christchurch on Saturday, while the Jaguares made light work of dismissing the ACT Brumbies 39-7 in Buenos Aires.

The final will be a shadow New Zealand-Argentina Test with the Jaguares including 14 Pumas in their run-on side against the Brumbies, while the Crusaders fielded 13 All Blacks. Crusaders coach Scott Robertson, who played for the red-and-blacks when they first won three Super finals in a row between 1998-2000, believes the final will come down to the top two inches.

"It is the mental side for us now," he said. "To be really clear in what we're going to do game-tactic wise, and then get excited. It is a pretty special opportunity for a lot of us guys." "We will get through so we're in the best physical nick as we possibly can and, more importantly, our mental condition to have a great night on Saturday," Robertson said, adding the team would not do any hard training runs this week.

Crotty, the backline general, suffered a suspected broken thumb in the intense semi-final against the Hurricanes while Barrett appeared to have fractured a finger. Aside from their injuries, prop Joe Moody and flyhalf Richie Mo'unga were nursing sore shoulders, but both are expected to be fit next week-as is battle-scarred flanker Matt Todd. The Crusaders and Jaguares did not face each other during the regular season this year, but Robertson said they know what to expect after the Argentiniens beat the Hurricanes 28-20 in Wellington.

"We did a little bit of homework. We were expecting to play them. We were a few days ahead on it, as you do, you're always planning. "They're tough and they're brutal. When they toured, we got a good feeling of how good they can be," Robertson said.—AFP



**SPIELBERG:** Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates on the podium after the Austrian Formula One Grand Prix in Spielberg yesterday. Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix after overtaking Charles Leclerc's Ferrari in the closing laps with the stewards announcing an inquiry into the manoeuvre. — AFP

## Verstappen ends Mercedes run

**SPIELBERG:** Max Verstappen overcame a poor start to storm to the sixth victory of his career and end Mercedes' record unbeaten start to the season when he triumphed in today's thrilling Austrian Grand Prix.

The 21-year-old Dutchman, who won last year's race at the Spielberg circuit, recovered after dropping to seventh and charged through to battle past Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in stirring fashion with two laps remaining.

His dramatic overtaking move was immediately announced as under investigation by the stewards, Leclerc feeling that he was given insufficient space as Verstappen forced him wide off the circuit. Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas came home third ahead of Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and defending five-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes, the series leader having suffered front wing and heating problems.

British rookie Lando Norris was an excellent sixth for McLaren ahead of Pierre Gasly in the second Red Bull, Carlos Sainz who finished eighth in the second McLaren after starting from the back of the grid, Kimi Raikkonen and his Alfa Romeo team-mate Antonio Giovinazzi.

"After that start, I thought my race was over," said Verstappen. "But after the pit-stops we were flying. It was hard racing - and if that's not allowed, what's the point in racing in F1. We may as well go home."

His victory brought Red Bull's engine supplier Honda their first win since the 2006 Hungarian Grand Prix after returning to Formula One. Leclerc said: "I had more degra-

ation than I thought at the end - we touched and I had to go wide and I didn't have a chance to fight back."

The race, which was a perfect antidote for the sport after the previous week's dreary procession in France, began in sweltering conditions with an air temperature of 35 degrees and the track at 58, Leclerc making a smooth start from his second pole position to lead into the newly-named Lauda Curve. Behind him, Verstappen - the other 21-year-old in the youngest front row in F1 history - was bogged down by his anti-stall and dropped to seventh as Bottas and the rest took advantage. By lap 15, Leclerc led by 3.6sec ahead of Bottas, Hamilton, Vettel and Verstappen with Norris taking sixth ahead of Raikkonen.

Both Ferraris traded fastest laps while the Mercedes men fought to preserve their tyres before Bottas and Vettel dived into the pits on lap 22, followed immediately by Leclerc. All switched to 'hards' in the pits, suggesting they hoped to drive to the flag while Hamilton continued on his original mediums. "Tyres are still good," he told the team after clocking a fastest lap.

Soon after this, he reported front wing problems were costing him down-force and time. After 30 laps, he pitted for tyres and a new wing, in 11 seconds, re-joining fifth behind Vettel.

Verstappen led briefly, but also pitted, gifting Leclerc with the initiative again ahead of Bottas and Vettel. The Dutchman rejoined fourth with Hamilton fifth. The champion, 13 seconds adrift in fifth, appeared unimpressed, especially by further instructions to lift and coast 400 metres before major curves to aid cooling. With Hamilton out of serious contention, it was Verstappen who supplied the thrills as he surged past Vettel, and then, on lap 56 and to the delight of the 'orange army' baking in open grandstands, dived past Bottas at Turn Three.—AFP

## Lashley fires 63 to seize six-stroke PGA Detroit lead

**WASHINGTON:** Nate Lashley, the last player to make the field, fired a nine-under par 63 to seize a six-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the US PGA Rocket Mortgage Classic. The 36-year-old American, ranked 353rd in the world, turned in a bogey-free round—the lowest score of the day-to stand on 23-under 193 after 54 holes at Detroit Golf Club with compatriot J.T. Poston second on 199.

"It was just one of those days when it seemed like nothing could go wrong," Lashley said. "Everything went right. Even when I didn't hit good shots, it went all right." Both Lashley and Poston are in position to capture the two available spots from this week's event for next month's British Open at Royal Portrush.

Cameron Tringale was third on 200 with 2018 Masters champion Patrick Reed another stroke back after both shot 65 Saturday. It would be an amazing long-sought victory, and in wire-to-wire fashion, for Lashley, who has had to overcome tragedy in his career. When he was a junior at the University of Arizona, his parents and girlfriend died in a plane crash while flying home from watching him play in a tournament.

After a knee injury cut short his 2018 PGA debut season, Lashley is playing on a secondary exemption after starting the season on a medical extension, his 2019-20 season status uncertain. No alternate has won a PGA title since Vaughn Taylor at Pebble Beach in 2016, but no player shooting 193 or better for 54 holes has lost this season, Rickie Fowler winning in Phoenix and Matt Kuchar winning at Mayakoba and the Sony Open in Hawaii.

"I'm just trying to stay in my routine and hit good shots," Lashley said. "We'll see what happens tomorrow."

Lashley, who only made the event when David Berganio withdrew on Wednesday, sank a 12-foot birdie putt on the opening hole, added back-to-back birdies on a five-foot putt at the par-5 fourth and a 13-footer at the par-3 fifth, then put his approach inside five feet and birdied the par-5 seventh to seize command at 18-under for the tournament, making the turn in the lead by two strokes.

"It was nice to get off to a good start," Lashley said. "It calmed my nerves a little bit." After opening the back nine with a birdie, Lashley sank a four-footer to birdie 12 and a three-footer to birdie the par-5 14th to reach 21-under, stretching his advantage to five shots. Lashley lipped out on a 10-foot birdie putt at 16 but sank a nine-footer for birdie at the par-5 17th and a four-footer to birdie the 18th. Lashley shared 28th at the US Open two weeks ago, making his major debut at Pebble Beach.—AFP

## Sports

# Starc says India defeat the World Cup turning point for Australia

## N Zealand's Boult takes World Cup hat-trick against Australia

**LONDON:** Mitchell Starc said the lessons learnt from a defeat by title rivals India were behind champions Australia's impressive surge to the semi-finals of the World Cup. Aaron Finch's side had already booked their place in the last four ahead of an 86-run thrashing of New Zealand—the team they beat in the 2015 final-at Lord's on Saturday.

Australia were in trouble at 92-5 after winning the toss on a used pitch before a stand of 107 between Usman Khawaja (88) and Alex Carey (71) propelled them to a competitive 243-9, for all Trent Boult took a last-over hat-trick. Jason Behrendorff, as he had done in the midweek defeat of England, then struck up front before fellow left-arm quick Starc, the leading bowler at this World Cup, took his tournament tally to 24 wickets with 5-26 as New Zealand slumped to 157 all out.

Australia's only reverse in eight group matches at this World Cup was a 36-run defeat by India and Starc, the player of the 2015 World Cup, said: "There's a calmness around the whole group, even when things aren't happening for us."

"Since India, we've taken wickets in the middle regularly. We were all a little off in that India game. "We didn't start well today but to scrap to a good score was fantastic for the middle order," added the 29-year-old. "I'm stoked

to be playing a part in this World Cup. "Our chances are as good as any team, always spoke about peaking ahead of the tournament. "We've got guys who are ready to go at different stages of the bowling innings," said Starc. "Jason has been fantastic in the past two innings, he's taken his opportunity with both hands."

"We're finding ways to win. I think a big part of that is our calmness and I think that's probably led by Finch (skipper Aaron Finch). He's been fantastic as a captain." After Saturday's match, where his haul included the prize wicket of New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, Starc admitted: "It was a worn wicket, so we probably had the rub of the conditions bowling second on that."

"It's a great result today but one win isn't going to win the World Cup." Starc's return is also the best haul of the tournament. Australia have a week off until their final group game against South Africa, by which time the wife of David Warner—the tournament's leading run-scorer—should have given birth to the couple's third child in Britain.

Starc said: "He packed his bag pretty quick. "I think he's out there enjoying the win, and tomorrow (Sunday) he'll be a dad for the third time. "Good luck to the Warners and I think when we see him in Manchester, he'll have his hands full again." — AFP



**LONDON:** Australia's Mitchell Starc (C) appeals successfully for the wicket of New Zealand's Ish Sodhi for five during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match between New Zealand and Australia at Lord's Cricket Ground in London. — AFP

## Vettori urges NZ not to panic after World Cup blow

**LONDON:** Former New Zealand star Daniel Vettori insists his country are still World Cup contenders despite their recent stumbles. New Zealand suffered their second defeat of the tournament against Australia at Lord's on Saturday, losing by 86 runs against the holders after a defeat to Pakistan in their previous game.

The Black Caps are not assured of a semi-final berth with one game left against title rivals England next week. But Vettori remains confident the 2015 World Cup runners-up will stay calm ahead of the England clash and should be capable of advancing to the knock-out stages.

"I still definitely feel that this New Zealand side can make history and win it all," Vettori said in an ICC Media column. "Two losses at this stage will be tough to take but they have been so good for so long and have so many experienced players that I am sure they will pull through."

"It is a bit tighter now, but I still think they will feel pretty confident. Even if every result goes against them, their net run rate should still put them into the semi-finals. "The nature of this New Zealand team for an extended period of time now has been to stay pretty constant, to not panic."

Vettori says New Zealand have been playing well enough not to lose faith in their game-plan. "They will understand that they have played some really good cricket in this tournament," he said. "They will need to call on all their nous to get through against the hosts."

"But even if they don't win against England and go through via net run rate, or other results going their way, I still think they will walk into the semi-finals thinking they can beat anyone on their day." Vettori's main concern is New Zealand's ability to score enough runs to put opponents in trouble on slow pitches, with the Black Caps yet to reach 300 in the tournament.

"The only question mark for them will be the surfaces they were playing on. It looks like across the board the surfaces are getting lower and slower," he said. "That makes it more difficult for batting and those partnerships are going to become more important, I am sure that will be a big focus against England." — AFP

## ICC chief happy with 'sporting' WCup pitches

**BIRMINGHAM:** International Cricket Council chief executive David Richardson yesterday said he is happy with the World Cup's "sporting pitches", insisting they have provided good balance between bat and ball.

Hosts England posted a tournament high of 397 for six against Afghanistan on June 18, but teams have struggled to get past 250 in the second innings of matches. The 10-team competition has seen sublime hundreds by the world's top batsmen including Australia's David Warner, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson and Joe Root of England.

## Afghanistan's Naib defends costly decision to bowl

**LEEDS:** Afghanistan skipper Gulbadin Naib defended his disastrous decision to bring himself on to bowl towards the end of a gripping match against Pakistan on Saturday—a move that cost 18 runs in a single over.

Pakistan edged home by three wickets with two balls to spare at Headingley but the contest turned in the 46th over, bowled by Naib. Spinners Mohammad Nabi (2-23), Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2-34) and Rashid Khan (1-50) had restricted Pakistan, who desperately needed to win to keep up their push for a semi-final place.

Pakistan, with four wickets in hand, needed 46 runs from 30 balls to win the match at the end of the 45th over but the complexion of the game was completely changed after man-of-the-match Imad Wasim smashed three fours and scrambled some more runs. Naib also bowled a wide.

Suddenly Pakistan needed just 28 runs from 24 balls and held their nerve to edge home. Seamer Naib, who conceded 73 runs in 9.4 wicketless overs, said a hamstring injury to paceman Hamid Hassan after he had bowled just two overs was the turning point in the match.

"We had the feeling they weren't targeting every bowler," said Naib, who was controversially appointed captain in place of the successful Asghar Afghan two months before the World Cup.

"Every team has their plans and I thought the crucial point is for the 46th over that I bowled and 18 runs, it's not really good." "If Hamid was there maybe I didn't bowl

But the bowlers have made their presence felt with Australia paceman Mitchell Starc leading the wicket-takers chart with 24 scalps in eight matches. Richardson said the ICC's only direction to the pitch curators was to prepare sporting tracks.

"During our playing days a score of between 220 and 260 was a good score but not now. So our only direction to the curators was to prepare sporting tracks," the former South African wicketkeeper-batsman told reporters in Edgbaston.

"And what's heartening to see in this tournament is how the bowlers have had a say and we have seen some exciting cricket. "Of course in ODIs you will not see as many close games as in Twenty20 cricket but the matches have gone deep and that's important."

Defending champions Australia were the first team to book their semi-finals berth and now have seven wins from their eight league matches. The semi-final race opened up after England's shock loss to Sri Lanka last week, with six of the 10 teams fighting for the remaining three spots.

"Even during the South Africa-India game, I believed for a while the Proteas will get a few more wickets but it didn't happen," he said. "So that's what I mean when I say that the tournament has lived up to expectations and only improved over the years."

Fan violence in Leeds on Saturday marred a World Cup match between Pakistan and Afghanistan as police were forced to intervene after fighting broke out between supporters of the two teams. Richardson said that incidents like these only make the ICC more "aware" and "prepared".

Meanwhile, Richardson lauded the ICC's work in spreading the game to different parts of the world and also contributing to society as they partnered with UNICEF to raise money for children.

ICC and UNICEF got together for the 'One Day for Children' campaign in Birmingham with a special celebration at the England against India match. The money raised will support UNICEF's work for children in cricket-playing nations across the world. — AFP



**LEEDS:** Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi (R) is watched by Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez as he plays a shot during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match between Pakistan and Afghanistan at Headingley in Leeds, northern England. — AFP

more than three or four overs because I do not have enough speed for this kind of surface," he added.

But Naib gave credit to Pakistan. "I think the pressure was on the Pakistan side. But credit goes to them, how

they played and how they finished the game," he said. Afghanistan, who have lost all eight of their World Cup matches, play West Indies in their final match at Headingley on July 4. — AFP



**BIRMINGHAM:** File photo shows Australia's Ashleigh Barty poses for a photograph with the trophy after her straight sets victory over Germany's Julia Gorges in their women's singles final tennis match at the WTA Nature Valley Classic tournament in Birmingham. — AFP

## Barty seeks to end long Aussie drought with women's Wimbledon crown

**LONDON:** Ashleigh Barty goes into Wimbledon buoyed, unlike her predecessor Naomi Osaka, by being world number one and with several of her major rivals struggling. The engaging 23-year-old Australian—who emulated compatriot Evonne Goolagong Cawley by becoming number one last weekend—has yet to get beyond the third round at Wimbledon.

However, by winning the Birmingham tournament last weekend Barty showed she has the strengths to add the grass court Grand Slam to the French Open she won on clay and become the first Australian women's champion since Goolagong Cawley's second success in 1980.

With 37-year-old seven-time champion Serena Williams finally showing signs of age, Osaka looking exposed through poor form and two-time Wimbledon singles champion Petra Kvitova still easing back to top form after an arm injury, defending champion Angelique Kerber may be the biggest threat to Barty.

Barty, who took an unconventional route to becoming world number one by taking a time off to play cricket, insists she feels no pressure. "The only pressure is that that I put on myself," she said. "To make sure that I do everything correctly and prepare as best that I can to try and play a good tennis match, try and play well, to enjoy myself."

Barty, who says the arm problem that forced her withdrawal from the Eastbourne tournament has cleared up, admits Wimbledon is unique among the Grand Slam events in having so few lead-up events on the surface.

"Wimbledon isn't a normal event," she said. "It's a little bit bizarre coming into Wimbledon having only played one grass court tournament. "We feel like we've been striking the ball really well, we're comfortable with the grass under our feet." Whilst Barty says she did not know what else the draw held for her,

Williams claimed not to even know the Australian was number one. The American legend could perhaps be forgiven her ignorance given how often the top spot has changed since her era of dominance ended. Nevertheless Williams—who claims she is over the knee woes that saw her pull out of her match with sister Venus at the Italian Open and then make an early French Open exit—believes Barty could be in for a long run as number one.

"I think so," said Williams. "I think she has a great game. "I think she's really even-tempered. She's just really chill. She's had a really good year."

### 'TAKE THE POSITIVE'

Williams is still chasing the elusive 24th Grand Slam title that would put her alongside Australian Margaret Court, but she was not talking up her chances. "I just haven't had enough match play, quite frankly," she said. "I finally feel like I found some good results in Paris. "I'm just going to do the best that I can now that I'm here," she said, adding with a smile: "I know how to play tennis." Osaka, for her part, says she is much more in the frame of mind she was when she won the Australian Open earlier this year than the stressed-out player who exited the French Open in the third round.

The 21-year-old says the number one spot she held earlier this year had been a millstone round her neck: "Mentally it was way more stress and pressure than I could have imagined." Despite a second-round defeat at the Birmingham tournament she insists she is in good shape going into Wimbledon, where she has yet to get past the third round.

"Actually in Australia I felt like normal," she said. "I felt like how I am now. "I feel like it (grass) should be good for me because it's very heavily reliant on the first serves, being the first person to be aggressive."

Kerber may have lost in the Eastbourne final to Karolina Pliskova but the German will be delighted if like last year that is the launching pad to winning at the All England club. Last year she lost in the Eastbourne semi-final only to go on and win Wimbledon.

"I will try to take the positive things from the whole week, from the last two weeks before going to Wimbledon now," said the 31-year-old German. — AFP

## Sports

# Sweden end German hoodoo to set up WCup s-final clash with Netherlands

## Germans deprived of the chance to defend their Olympic title

PARIS: Stina Blackstenius scored the winner as Sweden came from behind to stun old rivals Germany on Saturday and set up a women's World Cup semi-final against the Netherlands, who reached the last four for the first time.

Sweden had not beaten Germany at a major women's tournament since the 1995 World Cup, failing to win any of their subsequent meetings at World Cups, European Championships and Olympics in almost quarter of a century.

That run included defeats in the 2003 World Cup final and the gold medal match at the 2016 Rio Olympics, but they gained revenge in Rennes, coming from behind to win their quarter-final 2-1.

Lina Magull had given Germany a 16th-minute lead with a fine finish from a Sara Dacbritz assist, but the excellent Sofia Jakobsson equalised soon after on a hot evening in Brittany. The winner arrived three minutes after half-time, with Blackstenius prodding home the rebound after Almuth Schult had saved a Fridolina Rolfö header.

Despite bringing on star player Dszenifer Marozsan, who had missed the previous three games with a broken toe, Germany remained blunt as the clock ticked down. Blackstenius had scored Sweden's winner against Canada in the last round and also netted against the Germans in that Olympic final defeat in 2016.

"We have talked about the possibilities here for us to go far and win every game," said a bullish Sweden coach Peter Gerhardsson. "There's not a single mitochondria in us that's content. We're going to go for it."

The Germans will now be deprived of the chance to defend their Olympic title, with defeat here meaning they fail to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Games. Sweden

will join the Netherlands and Great Britain—who have qualified thanks to England's World Cup run-at the Games instead.

"We are now qualified for the Olympics. That is one thing that has been hanging over our heads for a while," said Gerhardsson. Germany coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg told ARD: "The defeat hurts, but we are in a process. We will grow from this experience."

Sweden go on to a semi-final encounter with the Dutch in Lyon on Wednesday, and they will have a score to settle there too, having lost to the Netherlands at Euro 2017. The 'Oranje' went on to win that tournament and have coped well in France with their status as reigning European champions.

On Saturday they sank Italy 2-0 in Valenciennes as headed goals from Vivianne Miedema and Stefanie van der Gragt in the second half taking them through to their first ever World Cup semi-final in just their second appearance at the tournament.

"I am very proud of the team. We have very good players. Since our victory at Euro 2017 we have gained a lot of confidence and we have improved enough to do well at this World Cup," said Dutch coach Sarina Wiegman. She said qualifying for the Olympics was "a dream come true".

Miedema's goal means the Arsenal striker—her country's record goal-scorer—now has 61 in 80 international matches. Surprise quarter-finalists Italy wilted towards the finish on a hot day and their players were in tears at the end.

"We are really upset because we got this far and had the chance to qualify for the Olympics. That's what we dreamed of," said Barbara Bonansea. "No-one expected all this from us so we can't be anything but happy."



RENNES: Sweden's goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl (R) vies with Germany's midfielder Alexandra Popp (C) during the France 2019 Women's World Cup quarter-final football match between Germany and Sweden, at the Roazhon park stadium in Rennes. —AFP

The tournament now switches for the closing stages to Lyon—home to Europe's top women's club side—with holders the United States and England facing off in the first semi-final on Tuesday. Megan Rapinoe's double strike gave the USA a 2-1 win over

France on Friday, ending the hosts' dream of winning the trophy on home soil.

England reached their second successive World Cup semi-final with a straightforward 3-0 win over Norway on Thursday. —AFP

## Peru beat Uruguay to reach Copa semi finals

SALVADOR: Goalkeeper Pedro Gallese saved Luis Suarez's spot-kick as Peru beat Uruguay on penalties on Saturday to reach the Copa America semi-finals, where they will face Chile. Edison Flores scored the decisive penalty as Peru, who were thrashed 5-0 by Brazil in their previous match, qualified for the semi-finals for the third time in the last four editions of the Copa.

It was a remarkable turnaround for Gallese, who was the villain of that thumping by the hosts, gifting Brazil their second goal by clearing the ball straight to Roberto Firmino, while he was also partially at fault for the first and third scores.

But in Salvador he guessed the right way for the first shoot-out penalty to deny Barcelona forward Suarez, after which Peru's own penalty-takers were faultless. "I'm very proud of our team. I can't really put it into words," said Peru captain Paolo Guerrero.

"A lot of people said we don't have the fortitude and guts. But we showed today on the pitch that we could take them on head-on. 'Peru has hunger, Peru is a warrior, Peru has guts.' It was the third Copa quarter-final to finish goalless and head to penalties after Uruguay had three goals ruled out for offside during normal time.

Giorgian de Arrascaeta, Edinson Cavani and Suarez had all put the ball in the net, only to be denied by a linesman's flag. "It's a bitter and sad feeling. We had high hopes to qualify, but simply couldn't," said Uruguay's captain Diego Godin.

"We lacked a goal. We tried, we looked for it... (But) three were disallowed." Brazil beat Paraguay on spot-kicks on Thursday and champions Chile did likewise to knock-out Colombia on Friday. In the only match to feature any goals, Argentina defeated Venezuela 2-0 on Friday.

Peru will face Chile in the second semi-final in Porto Alegre on Wednesday, a day after hosts Brazil take on Argentina in Belo Horizonte. Copa winners in 1939 and 1975, Peru lost to Chile in the semi-finals four years ago.

After a slow opening, Uruguay burst into life on 15 minutes when Federico Valverde surged onto a loose Peru pass in their own half and picked out an unmarked Luis Suarez on the penalty spot, but the Barcelona forward couldn't



SALVADOR: Peru's Andre Carrillo (front) and Uruguay's Rodrigo Bentancur vie for the ball during their Copa America quarterfinal football match at the Fonte Nova Arena in Salvador, Brazil. —AFP

keep down his header.

Two minutes later Nahitan Nandez broke into the box from the flank but his shot was blocked by a sliding defender. In pouring rain, Uruguay looked set to take the lead on 24 minutes with a rapier counter-attack, but Cavani ballooned the ball into the sky from six yards after Gallese parried Suarez's shot, although it wouldn't have counted as the Barcelona forward was retroactively deemed offside

when he received the ball.

Moments later Nandez headed over from six yards. De Arrascaeta had the ball in the net on 28 minutes but that was chalked off for an offside against Nandez. Peru finally created a worthy chance late in the first half but Jose Gimenez made a stunning recovery tackle to deny Guerrero a goalscoring chance. Up the other end, Gallese made himself big to block Cavani's shot on the turn. —AFP

## Renard expects 'tough game' against S Africa

CAIRO: Morocco coach Herve Renard is anticipating a "tough game" against South Africa today at the Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt despite the contrasting fortunes of the teams. While Morocco were deserved 1-0 winners over the Ivory Coast in Group D—considered the hardest of the six—South Africa were lucky to lose only 1-0 to the west Africans.

"South Africa have a lot of very good players," said Renard, the only coach to win the African title with two countries. "They also have a good coach in Stuart Baxter so it will be a tough game." Here, AFP Sport previews the final Group C and Group D matches in Cairo with Morocco and Algeria already assured of last-16 places.

### MOROCCO V SOUTH AFRICA

Although Morocco won by only one-goal margins against Namibia and the Ivory Coast, they have exhibited class and appear to be keeping plenty in reserve for the knockout phase. The goal that sunk the Ivorians demonstrated why the Atlas Lions are considered one of the biggest threats to hosts and bookmakers' favourites Egypt. Nordin Amrabat displayed dribbling skills rarely seen in this tournament and his clever pass freed scorer Youssef En-Nesyri, who had timed his dart forward perfectly. South Africa have been poor both when losing to the Ivory Coast and scraping a win over Namibia with Baxter lamenting the "slowness of transitions from defence to attack".

### IVORY COAST V NAMIBIA

After outplaying South Africa, the Ivorians came off second best against Morocco, but should recover to defeat spirited but limited Namibia and

## Points proven, World Cup heads into grand finale

LYON: Television audience records have been smashed, global media coverage has been unprecedented and the quality of football has won over many sceptics—now the women's World Cup heads into its final week, the business end of the tournament.

The United States, the defending champions and three-times World Cup winners, remain favourites to lift the trophy in Lyon on Sunday but first they must deal with a confident England side tomorrow's semi-final.

In Wednesday's game, European champions the Netherlands take on a Sweden side who are on a high after upsetting Olympic champions Germany in Saturday's quarter-final. Today, fans of all four teams began to arrive in Lyon, bringing their colour and bonhomie to the central French city. The Dutch turned Valenciennes orange on Saturday, while thousands of Americans had poured into Paris for Friday's win over the hosts. England have had unprecedented levels of travelling support and Sweden's status as one of the pioneer nations in women's football means they never lack for backing.

What fills veterans of the women's game with such confidence for the future is the sight of so many young female supporters in the crowds, school-age players who idolise the international footballers. There is a family atmosphere but also a new generation of women fans, such as Italy's well-organised and vocal ultras.

It is a far cry from the days when attendance was limited to pockets of friends and families of the players alongside curious locals. The hearts and minds aspect of this tournament has been a runaway success but now it is all about winning and losing. — Reuters

## Argentina waiting for Messi magic to make an appearance

BELO HORIZONTE: For the last dozen years, Argentina has been waiting for global superstar Lionel Messi to lead their football team to a major international trophy. But when the country needed the five-time Ballon d'Or winner most, Messi failed to emulate the feats of Diego Maradona in 1986 — when for some he almost single-handedly won the World Cup.

Four times Messi has lined up with Argentina in a major final—the 2014 World Cup and Copa America in 2007, 2015 and 2016 — but every time they have lost. He has often come under criticism for failing to reproduce his Barcelona form when wearing the sky blue and white jersey of the national team.

Now, ahead of a mouth-watering Copa semi-final against hosts Brazil in Belo Horizonte, Argentines are simply waiting for Messi to turn up. "This is the match for Messi to appear," screamed Ole newspaper's online edition after Argentina beat Venezuela 2-0 to secure the Brazil semi-final.

Ironically, at this tournament, while Argentina's performances have been improving steadily, Messi has, if anything, become less influential. Argentina were all at sea in their opening 2-0 defeat to Colombia and needed a Messi penalty to salvage a 1-1 draw with Paraguay.

But in the 2-0 win over Qatar that qualified Argentina for the knock-out rounds, and the quarter-final victory over Venezuela by the same score, Messi became an increasingly peripheral figure.

He admitted as much after the Venezuela match, saying: "I'm not at my best level, I'm not playing how I hoped I would. I'm not having my best Copa America." Brazil center-back Thiago Silva is not so convinced, though.

"For me, Messi is the best player in history, the best I've ever seen play. It's a privilege to play against him," said a player who hails from the country that produced Pele, Garincha, Socrates, Ronaldo and Ronaldinho.

Messi turned 32 during the tournament and while he doesn't appear close to retirement, it cannot be too many years away. His game has changed over the years and he no longer produces the same kind of, or quantity of, darting runs at the heart of opposition defences.

He plays deeper than he used to, passes more and is more selective with his runs. He also rests more than he used to and took an eight-month break from the national team following the World Cup in Russia, only returning in March in a 3-1 friendly defeat to Venezuela.

But he is more than just the star of the team these days, he is the leader and captains both club and country. During the club season, Messi took the lead in defending Philippe Coutinho, whom he will line up opposite on Tuesday, from criticism levelled at the Brazilian playmaker in the Catalan press.

Messi also defended Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde against the brickbats. And here, while his and Argentina's attacking performances have been nothing to enthuse about, Messi took the time to praise the team's defensive efforts.

"Defensively we didn't have any problems and the team was very solid at all times," he said following the Venezuela victory, which he described as a "complete" performance. — AFP

## 25 Yankees survive Red Sox as baseball makes history in London slugfest



## 26 Starc says India defeat the World Cup turning point for Australia



## 27 Sweden end German hoodoo to set up WCup s-final clash with Netherlands



BIRMINGHAM: England's Jonny Bairstow (C) plays a shot past India's wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (L) during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match between England and India at Edgbaston in Birmingham, central England, yesterday. — AFP

# England beat India to revive semis hopes

## Bairstow smashes century, Stokes provides late burst

**BIRMINGHAM:** A spirited England ended India's unbeaten run in the Cricket World Cup with a 31-run victory in a high-scoring group match to boost their semi-final prospects yesterday. Jonny Bairstow smashed a belligerent 111. Jason Roy returned from a hamstring injury to make 66 and Ben Stokes (79) provided the late burst in England's commanding 337-7 after electing to bat on an Edgbaston featherbed.

Rohit Sharma smashed his third hundred of the tournament and Virat Kohli his fifth successive half-century but India did not get another significant partnership and finished on 306-5. England leapfrog Pakistan to fourth place with 10 points from eight games, while India remain second on 11 from seven matches. The hosts missed opener Roy particularly in their back-to-back defeats by Sri Lanka and Australia which had jeopardised their semi-final prospects. The 28-year-old made an instant impact on his return, forging

the tournament's highest opening stand with Bairstow and both survived some torrid moments before tearing into the Indian attack during their 160-run stand.

Bairstow nearly deflected a couple of inside edges on to the stump and Roy got a caught-behind reprieve on 21 when he gloved Hardik Pandya. The umpire, however, declared it wide and the Indians deliberated for a while before deciding against reviewing the decision in front of an anxious crowd of predominantly India fans.

England reached the 150 mark in the 21st over and it took a stunning catch by substitute fielder Ravindra Jadeja in the deep to send back Roy. Bairstow brought up his eighth ODI century off 90 balls, celebrating by dropping his helmet, stretching out his arms and soaking in the applause.

Mohammed Shami (5-69) returned to end Bairstow's 109-ball blitz which included six sixes and 10 boundaries. India managed to

stem the boundary flow in the 30-40 over period, when they conceded only 43 runs while claiming two wickets.

Stokes clobbered three sixes and six boundaries in his blistering knock before Jasprit Bumrah dismissed him in the final over. India, clad in their away orange-and-blue jerseys, wobbled early in their chase. Chris Woakes began with three maiden overs, catching the scoreless KL Rahul off his own bowling in his second. India could have been in a deeper crisis but Root, who made 44 with the bat, spilled Rohit, then on four, at slip off Jofra Archer.

Rohit went on to stitch a 138-run partnership with Kohli, the duo frustrating the English attack with their risk-free accumulation. Kohli duly brought up his half-century but once again fell short of a hundred, slicing Liam Plunkett (3-55) to backward point.

Rohit could not be denied his 25th ODI century but he fell to Woakes after making

### SCOREBOARD

England v India World Cup match in Birmingham yesterday:	
<b>England</b>	<b>India</b>
J. Roy c sub (Jadeja) b Yadav 66	KL Rahul c and b Woakes 0
J. Bairstow c Pant b Shami 111	R. Sharma c Buttler b Woakes 102
J. Root c Pandya b Shami 44	V. Kohli c sub (Vince) b Plunkett 66
E. Morgan c Jadhav b Shami 1	R. Pant c Wood b Plunkett 32
B. Stokes c sub (Jadeja) b Bumrah 79	H. Pandya c sub (Vince) b Plunkett 45
J. Buttler c and b Shami 20	MS Dhoni not out 42
C. Woakes c Sharma b Shami 7	K. Jadhav not out 12
L. Plunkett not out 1	Extras: (lb1, w6) 7
J. Archer not out 0	<b>Total: (five wickets, 50 overs) 306</b>
Extras: (b2, lb2, w4) 8	<b>Did not bat:</b> Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah
<b>Total: (seven wickets, 50 overs) 337</b>	<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-8 (Rahul), 2-146 (Kohli), 3-198 (Sharma), 4-226 (Pant), 5-267 (Pandya)
<b>Did not bat:</b> Adil Rashid, Mark Wood	<b>Bowling:</b> Woakes 10-3-58-2, Archer 10-0-45-0, Plunkett 10-0-55-3 (4w), Wood 10-0-73-0 (1w), Rashid 6-0-40-0 (1w), Stokes 4-0-34-0
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-160 (Roy), 2-205 (Bairstow), 3-207 (Morgan), 4-277 (Root), 5-310 (Buttler), 6-319 (Woakes), 7-336 (Stokes)	<b>Result:</b> England won by 31 runs.
<b>Bowling:</b> Shami 10-1-69-5 (1w), Bumrah 10-1-44-1, Chahal 10-0-88-0 (2w), Pandya 10-0-60-0 (1w), Yadav 10-0-72-1	

102 which included 15 boundaries. Rishabh Pant made 32 in his World Cup debut and Hardik Pandya chipped in with a 45-run

cameo but Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who made 42 not out, failed to do justice to his reputation as a 'finisher'. — Reuters

## Vinales conquers Assen's 'Cathedral of Speed'

**ASSEN:** Maverick Vinales cruised to his first win of the season at the Dutch MotoGP in Assen yesterday, comfortably seeing off world champion Marc Marquez who extended his lead at the top of the championship table.

Yamaha's 24-year-old rider took control at the 'Cathedral of Speed' with a dozen laps to go, soon pulling clear for his sixth career MotoGP win in his

80th race, but his first since Australia last year.

The mustachioed Vinales, who crossed the line almost five seconds clear of Marquez, told BT Sport: "This is honestly one of the tracks I like most in the calendar. I want to congratulate my team, they did a great job. I'm living my dream, it's been such a long time since my last victory!"

Marquez, who extended his championship lead despite finishing second, said: "I knew Yamaha were very very strong in practice, so this is like a victory. Vinales - he deserves the win." Pole sitter Fabio Quartararo had to settle for third after appearing to have difficulties on his Yamaha, prolonging his wait for a first win in the top category.

But he refused to blame his machine, telling BT Sport: "I was leading the race for the first time, so I'm

happy, can't wait for Germany (next weekend)." The Frenchman, who had set a new track record in qualifying on Saturday, added that his "arm is a little hurting" in reference to the surgery he required at the start of June.

Vinales's teammate, veteran Italian Valentino Rossi, failed to finish after crashing out with Takaaki Nakagami in the early stages. Despite missing out on the win Marquez left Assen in good spirits as he pulled 44 points clear of Andrea Dovizioso, who took fourth on Sunday, in the MotoGP rider's title race.

Earlier, Augusto Fernandez capitalised on Lorenzo Baldassarri wiping out Alex Marquez to claim the Dutch Moto2 Grand Prix. The 21-year-old Spaniard was left out in front to celebrate his debut win in the category after Baldassarri crashed into the champi-

onship leader in the closing laps.

The pair ended up in a heap on the gravel, Marquez's hopes of a fourth consecutive win dashed. Swiss rider Thomas Luthi who took fourth at Assen now leads the Moto2 standings on 117 points from Marquez on 111, with Fernandez in third on 92.

Honda's Italian rider Tony Arbolino overtook Lorenzo Dalla Porta in the closing laps to claim the Moto3 race. Jakub Kornfeil had led until a penalty for cutting a chicane saw him eventually finish third in a race marked by a three-bike crash involving Japanese duo Kaito Toba and Tatsuki Suzuki and Raul Fernandez of Spain.

Arbolino's second win of the season lifted him into fourth in the Moto3 standings, 31 points behind leader Aron Canet who had to settle for 12th. — AFP